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THE TIMES
30p
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MONDAY MARCH 25 1996

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Why early woman evolved the need to chatter
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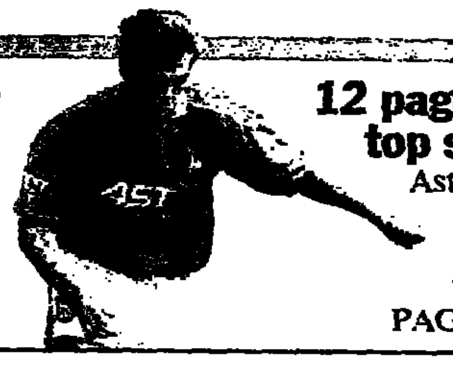

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What every parent must know
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Selective slaughter likely as confidence plummets and McDonald's drops British beef

Ministers set to back killing of 4m cattle

By Philip Webster, Michael Hornsby and Charles Bremner

THE Government is near to deciding to slaughter more than four million cattle in a drastic move to restore confidence in British beef.

Killing all animals aged more than two-and-a-half years emerged last night as the option most favoured by ministers as they tackle the crisis caused by the disclosure of possible links between "mad cow" disease and its human form, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

The plan could cost more than £6 billion in compensation but the Government would look for "considerable" assistance with the costs from the European Union.

An announcement on a policy of "selective slaughter" is expected within days.

Ministers will today consider the latest advice of leading scientists on the safety of feeding beef to children. A statement to the Commons is expected this afternoon from Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary.

The Government's advisory committee on BSE met over the weekend at the Sunningdale Civil Service college in Berkshire and was to pass its recommendations to Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, last night. Ministers will not be surprised if the committee has also recommended a slaughter policy.

As one hamburger chain, McDonald's, announced that it had stopped using British beef and another, Burger King, said it was closely monitoring events, Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, disclosed that slaughtering was under consideration to repair confidence which he admitted had been grievously damaged.

Mr Hogg said on BBC1's *On the Record* that there were advantages in focusing on older cows because there were very few cases of BSE confirmed in cattle under the age of 30 months, and because the number of cattle with the disease which were born after the offal ban in 1989 was very limited. It would, he said, be "focusing on the core of the problem."

Sources later divulged that the slaughter of older cows was one of three central options that had confronted the Government. One was the "Doomsday scenario" of killing the entire British herd of 11 million cattle, which would cost £20 billion and has in effect been rejected. The other is the possibility of slaughtering all herds in which BSE has been found, which would mean the killing of hundreds of thousands of healthy young beef cattle.

Some farmers were reluctantly coming to the view last night that mass slaughter might be the only way to restore consumer confidence, even though many entirely healthy animals would be destroyed in the process and it could take years to rebuild pedigree breeding stocks.

But Ian Gardiner, policy director at the National Farmers' Union, said: "It would be hard to justify destroying animals in herds which have never had a case of BSE."

However, experts say it would be one way of getting rid of older dairy cows which are the animals most likely to have eaten contaminated feed.

If a policy of selective slaughter is adopted, the animals will probably be killed by lethal injection on the farm. This is the method currently used to kill animals which develop visible symptoms. Nearly 160,000 cattle have been put down and incinerated since the first case was diagnosed in 1986.

Mr Hogg said: "I would certainly look to our colleagues in the European Union to provide very substantial assistance through the common agricultural policy."

Pressure on embattled beef producers could mount today when European Union officials in Brussels consider a continent-wide ban. British beef has been quarantined by ten EU states. Franz Fischler, the EU's Austrian Farm Commissioner, holds responsibility for a final decision, which will be put to the full Commission on Wednesday.

Germany is leading the campaign for a blanket ban. Horst Seehofer, the Bonn Health Minister, said the proposals for limited slaughter were "highly unsatisfactory and not acceptable".

Ivan Yates, the Irish Agriculture Minister, said it was time to fence off British beef. "We are supporting an effective trade ban on British beef outside of Britain," he said.

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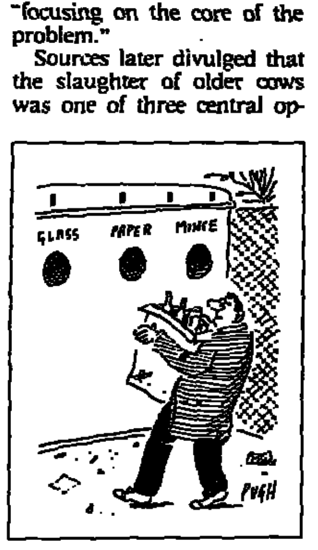

SIMON WALKER

There was a difference at McDonald's yesterday as Big Macs came off the menu

Fast food chain takes burgers off the menu

By Russell Jenkins

McDONALD's this weekend showed the ruthless commercial instinct that has made them the world's most successful hamburger chain — they took Big Macs off the menu.

The decision to withdraw hamburgers from the menus of 660 outlets ahead of scientists' recommendations on the safety of British beef wrongfooted rivals, angered meat suppliers and pulled the rug from under the Government.

For the first time since the company came to Britain 26 years ago the beef burger has given way to "no beef at all" as McDonald's unique selling point. British beef will be returned to wholesalers and fresh supplies brought in from Holland in time for burgers made "exclusively from non-British beef" to be back on the menu by Thursday.

At a series of meetings at the company headquarters in Finchley, north London, executives took the decision to launch a costly exercise to protect their biggest seller against mounting public anxiety over the safety of British beef.

McDonald's two million customers, who eat 1.8 million hamburgers a day, were greeted with a choice of chicken, fish or the new vegetarian burger yesterday.

The public announcement, which came at 11.38pm on Saturday, was carefully timed to achieve maximum publicity. It is followed up by full-page advertisements in every national newspaper today. Paul Preston, chief executive of McDonald's UK, emphasises that the company has faith in the safety of British beef but insists that it cannot ignore a "growing loss of consumer confidence". He Mr Preston emphasised that his company would buy British beef once consumer confidence returned.

Philip Dorgan, food retail analyst for stockbrokers SGST, said yesterday: "McDonald's has taken a gigantic leap into the unknown. If they had not made it they might have had nobody eating their burgers on Monday, whereas now they are more likely to be back when they are back on sale on Thursday.

"It is a sensible position to adopt because so many parents are now saying to their children 'you are not allowed to eat beef any more'. It is a completely different situation to what happened with the BSE scare a few years ago. This time all bets are off and anything can happen."

McDonald's marketing staff, brought in specially to field inquiries yesterday, emphasised that the decision was made without any consideration of lost sales. A straw poll among customers yesterday showed that customers were opting for the alternatives on offer.

Speaking on Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, Mr

Preston: "a matter of customer confidence"

Continued on page 2, col 3

Breast cancer on the retreat

Breast cancer, the greatest scourge of women in the Western world, is in retreat after three decades during which the toll mounted to record levels. A comparison of death rates in 20 countries has shown that in 16 the steep rise in earlier years has levelled off or started to fall. The UK has recorded the biggest fall........Page 6

Man 'hunted backpackers'

An Australian court will be told that a man accused of murdering seven backpackers hunted some of his young victims like wild animals. Ivan Milat, 51, faces trial for the serial killing of two British women, three Germans and an Australian couple in bushland in New South Wales........Page 13

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Lilley tempts small benefit cheats with an amnesty

By Dominic Kennedy, social affairs correspondent

BENEFIT cheats are to be offered an amnesty to reduce the £3 billion a year fraud bill.

They will be urged to surrender themselves to the Department of Social Security in return for an exemption from prosecution. Advertisements on buses and billboards will ask people to ring a special number if they are worried that they are being paid benefits to which they are not entitled. They will be invited for an interview and given the chance to repay the money.

Three pilot schemes are being introduced in London on April 2. If they work, there may be a national amnesty. To counter suggestions that the DSS is going soft, teams of up to 60 investigators will be sent to the areas to put pressure on false claimants.

Many people drift into benefit fraud by, for example, failing to admit a change in their income or circumstances. They can then feel too frightened to report themselves to the DSS.

Prosecuting in minor cases can be seen as a waste of effort because the courts are inclined to treat them leniently. Some Conservative backbenchers will, nevertheless, be infuriated at benefit cheats being allowed to avoid facing justice.

In some cases, the DSS is likely to let people escape prosecution without having to return the money.

Fighting benefit fraud is one of the key strategies of Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretaryfor reducing the social security budget which will be £90 billion this year — a steep rise from only £56 billion six years ago. The Commons Social Security Select Committee, on a visit to New Zealand, found that a successful amnesty had saved £10 million, with more than 7,000 benefits cancelled and a further 4,500 reviewed.

Frank Field, the Labour MP who chairs the committee, called last month for amnesties to be offered in Britain to all those coming forward to close a fraudulent account.

A freephone hotline will be introduced to encourage people to report suspected fraud; suspicious workplaces like minicab offices and building sites will be targetted, and there will be extra home visits to claimants.

The amnesty is part of a campaign called "Spotlight On Benefit Cheats" which will begin in Croydon, Haringey and Enfield next week.

Sinn Fein dashes hopes of ceasefire

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland correspondent

MARTIN McGUINNESS, a leading member of Sinn Fein, indicated last night that there was no prospect of an imminent IRA ceasefire unless Britain gave "absolute guarantees" that it would convene unconditional all-party talks.

Speaking at the end of Sinn Fein's conference, he called on London to abandon its plans for elections and its demands that the IRA must disarm. Mr McGuinness said: "Sinn Fein wants Britain to make it quite clear that there are guarantees that meaningful and real negotiations without preconditions will take place. There is no guarantee that that will secure an IRA ceasefire. But if people like us can be assured, it gives us something to work on."

But Mr McGuinness insisted it would be "ridiculous" for him to to go to the IRA to call for another ceasefire in the immediate future.

Earlier John Austin-Walker, a left-wing Labour MP, won applause at the conference for attacking John Major's handling of the peace process. The Woolwich MP, who is chairman of the Campaign Group of Labour MPs, praised Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and said Mr Major's plan for elections in Northern Ireland showed that the Prime Minister had eaten too much beef.

A spokesman for Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said he regarded Mr Austin-Walker's decision to speak at the conference as "foolish". Labour chiefs believe the MP has made a mistake by sharing a platform with Sinn Fein when there has been no renewal of the ceasefire.

Republican cheers, page 5

Woman takes over reins of the Derby

By Richard Evans
Racing correspondent

THE future of one of the great events of the social and sporting calendar is to be entrusted to a woman for the first time. Sue Ellen, a businesswoman, has been recruited to revive the flagging fortunes of the Derby, the world's most famous Flat race which has been run every year since 1780.

Mrs Ellen, who until recently ran Bupa, the private medical company, which has a £240 million annual turnover, will be confirmed this week as managing director of United Racecourses, which owns Epsom, Sandown and Kempton.

The appointment of Mrs Ellen, 47, in a sport dominated by men, was made by Christopher Sporborg, deputy chairman of Hambros and a Jockey Club member, Christopher Spence, the new High Sheriff of Berkshire and fellow Jockey Club member, and David Hillyard, managing director of Racecourse Holdings Trust, the Jockey Club-owned subsidiary which bought United Racecourses for £30 million two years ago.

The task facing Mrs Ellen is formidable. Heading the priority list will be the future of the Derby, whose popularity has declined significantly. The mile-and-a-half classic was moved last year from its traditional spot on the first Wednesday in June to a Saturday in an attempt to increase public interest.

Racing, page 32

Ellen: formidable task

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

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PLUS:
Play to win in our cash-prize Interactive Team Football game

WEDNESDAY

FASHION
Real women wear Donna Karan
PLUS:
Win the CD-Rom *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, worth £750, in *Interface*

THURSDAY

FILM OF THE WEEK
Geoff Brown on *Dead Man Walking*
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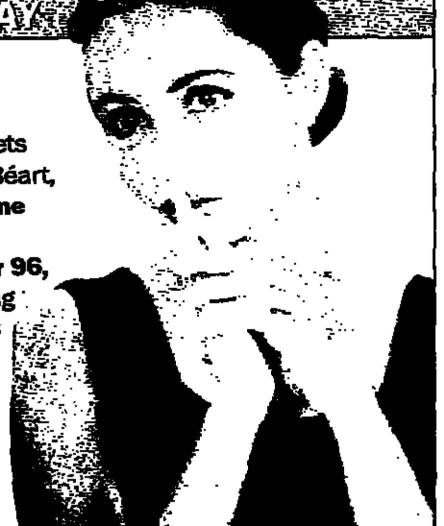
How to enter *The Times* Screenwriting Competition

FRIDAY

POP
David Sinclair meets country-rock star Steve Earle
PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY



FEMME FATALE
Kate Muir meets Emmanuelle Béart, in the **Magazine**
PLUS:
Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young *Times* readers and **Vision**, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK:
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Major seeks Clarke backing on EMU referendum pledge

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR will meet Kenneth Clarke this week in an attempt to secure the Chancellor's backing for an early pledge that the Government would hold a referendum before joining a European single currency.

Amid signs that Mr Clarke's misgivings over a referendum have stronger support within the Cabinet than so far recognised, the Prime Minister will try to persuade him of the electoral advantages of making a commitment now to consulting the people if a future government decides the terms are right.

Ministers believe Mr Clarke would go along with a referendum only if Mr Major also made it plain that the Cabinet of the day would be bound by collective responsibility to support entry to a single currency in the public campaign, and if Mr Major insisted that granting a referendum now would not lead to similar plebiscites on other European issues, as some Euro-sceptics want.

Although there is believed to be a Cabinet majority in favour of a referendum pledge, several senior figures, including Michael Heseltine, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Stephen Dorrell and Sir George Young, share Mr Clarke's reservations. Another group, which is believed to include Ian Lang, the Board of Trade President, are prepared to go along with a referendum, but would have preferred the issue to have been tackled at a later stage. Michael Portillo, a long-time opponent of a referendum, will go along with the judgment of the majority.

Some have criticised Mr Major for bowing to pressure from Conservative Central Office to bring forward the Cabinet discussion. They would have preferred to have left the issue open.

The Labour leadership, which is also expected to pledge a referendum, has decided against an early announcement even though a rough survey of MPs have shown a big majority in favour of a commitment.

Most of Mr Clarke's Cabinet colleagues believe it unlikely that he would resign over the issue. But Mr Major, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, who strongly support the idea of a pledge now, will want to be sure of that before any announcement is made.

Mr Heseltine has been heading the efforts to keep Mr Clarke on board and will continue to do so when Mr Rifkind's paper on the detailed implications of a referendum is circulated this week. Mr Clarke, who has been in South Africa for the past ten days, is expected to have a "head-to-head" with Mr Major tomorrow or on Wednesday.

As Mr Major prepared for the Turin summit on Friday that will launch the inter-governmental conference on the future of Europe, Italy again yesterday raised Tory hackles by pledging to use its EU presidency to drive forward a federalist agenda. Susanna Agnelli, the Foreign Minister, said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost* that people should be delighted if a united states of Europe came about. She warned Britain it was pointless to expect to defend its national veto on controversial Brussels proposals.

Universities put teamwork skills on wanted list

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

SKILLS in teamwork and communications are to become requirements for university entry under plans to reform A levels. The Government's wide-ranging review of qualifications will recommend this week that numeracy, computers and problem solving should be studied by every sixth-former.

In response, Ucas, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, is planning to allocate points to core skills so they can be used alongside A levels as a passport to higher education. The points will also be used to compile a new generation of league tables, intended to show better the all-round performance of schools as well as pupils.

Core skills are already a requirement in the vocational alternative to A level, the advanced GNVQ. They are assessed by the classroom teacher during the student's course and recorded in a separate log book. For example, to complete the core skill in communication, students have to record group discussions they took part in and show how they made a positive contribution.

Employers have led the call for core skills to be included in the sixth-form syllabus and a CBI survey placed communication skills top among the options. Only last month, the Education Select Committee, reporting on the future of qualifications, said traditional academic A levels were too narrow, and sixth-formers should all have to pass literacy and numeracy tests.

Sir Ron Dearing, who is reviewing qualifications, is unlikely to make core skills compulsory, but points towards university entry would be a strong incentive for students to do them alongside A levels or vocational qualifications. Ucas has decided to scrap the present points system used by universities when they make an offer of a place to prospective students. The tradition of asking for a certain number of points, with an A grade worth 10, a B 8, a C 6, a D 4 and an E 2, is privately considered a nonsense by Ucas officials.

One said: "No one can say with any certainty that an A is five times better than an E, particularly as an A is awarded with 70 per cent and an E at 40 per cent. The arithmetic does not stack up." The official confirmed: "It is our intention to give points for core skills."

Students vote today on loans campaign

STUDENTS are poised to abandon their traditional demand for bigger grants in favour of a united campaign with vice-chancellors for changes to the loans system.

Reformers among the National Union of Students believe they have a small majority for change among the 1,800 delegates at their annual conference in Blackpool, which starts today. A vote to commit the union to fighting for bigger grants would wreck plans for an unprecedented rally alongside lecturers and vice-chancellors, calling for a new funding system. Opponents accuse the NUS of doing the Labour Party's bidding by convincing students to make a contribution to their education.

TIM OCKENDEN

Members of the Army's 5th Airborne Brigade leaping from a Hercules during a parachute drop on Salisbury Plain as part of Exercise Winged Avenger at the weekend

Fast food chain pulls burgers off the menu

Continued from page 1

Preston said: "It is not a publicity stunt. This is very sincere. Those two million people, who we serve every day, are telling us that British beef burgers is a concern to them and that they would like to know what McDonald's is doing about it. It is a matter of consumer confidence."

McDonald's, said to take some meat from one in every 12 cattle slaughtered, only accounts for 3 per cent of the 900,000 tonnes of beef eaten in this country anually. It spends £50 million a year on the meat. A National Farmers Union spokesman described the boycott as "regrettable".

Meanwhile Egon Ronay, the food writer, urged consumers to rejoice at the removal of "inedible" hamburgers from the menu. Burger King would do the public a huge favour by striking "Whoppers" and associated beef products off its menu, too.

"In my opinion the only really bad items at these places are the beef burgers," he said. "They are inedible. They just do not taste of beef. But many of the other items they sell are very good and this is a good chance for people to discover them."

Burger King, McDonald's main rival, said it was "monitoring the situation" but hinted that it would soon follow suit. Other chains such as Wimpy, Wendy's and Starburger had made no immediate decision.

A statement from Burger King said that the company's first priority was the safety of its customers. "We remain confident in the quality and high standards of our products. All the beef in our burgers comes from prime cuts from the forequarter and flank of the animal. We do not use offal or mechanically recovered meat in our products.

"We feel it is prudent to await the information from the Government's scientific advisory committee so that we can make an informed decision."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Change in rape cases promised by Labour

Rape victims would be spared the ordeal of being questioned in court about their previous sexual history under Labour proposals to change sentencing published today.

Lawyers would be barred from trying to blacken a victim's character by asking about former partners and would be allowed only to ask about the attack that was the subject of the trial.

The move follows widespread concern at the manner in which some rape victims have been treated in the witness box. Labour believes that hostile questioning may be one reason for the decline in the conviction rate in rape cases.

Gun tests urged

Pyschological profiling of all gun licence applicants is among measures to be discussed this week at the annual conference of the police superintendents' association. Currently only an informal character reference is required. The officers also want gun club members to be forced to leave weapons at clubs. They hope Lord Cullen, who is investigating the Dunblane massacre, will endorse the proposals.

Height of winter

Old people in West Yorkshire have had to depend on their postcodes for cold weather payments of £8.50 a week. Two weather stations only 13 miles apart, one of which is nearly 700ft higher than the other, have recorded such different temperatures that pensioners in the Leeds and Wakefield postcode areas have received one payment, while those with a Bradford postcode have had six during the same period.

Royal trademark

The Prince of Wales has registered "Highgrove" as a trademark to protect sales of royal products including marmalade, table mats and fudge. A range of 20 items is to go on sale from today bearing the logo of the new brand which is named after the Prince's Gloucestershire estate. He cannot use his own crest for commercial purposes, so the Highgrove logo is a single gold feather from a 1911 design.

Suspect guarded

A man aged 29 was under police guard in hospital last night suspected of murder after a young couple were found stabbed to death at a house in West Molesey, Surrey, on Saturday night. The emergency services had forced entry to the house in response to a call from neighbours who had reported a disturbance. Michelle Lander, 34, and Gary Stephenson, 23, were pronounced dead at the scene.

Book stores

Village shops may soon branch out into offering a library service after the success of a pilot scheme in which four stores in Norfolk doubled as libraries. John Creber, an assistant director of Norfolk's library service, said: "We've found it's ideal for communities with a population over 1,200 but for smaller villages the mobile library is a better bet." Shopkeepers taking part receive training in librarianship.

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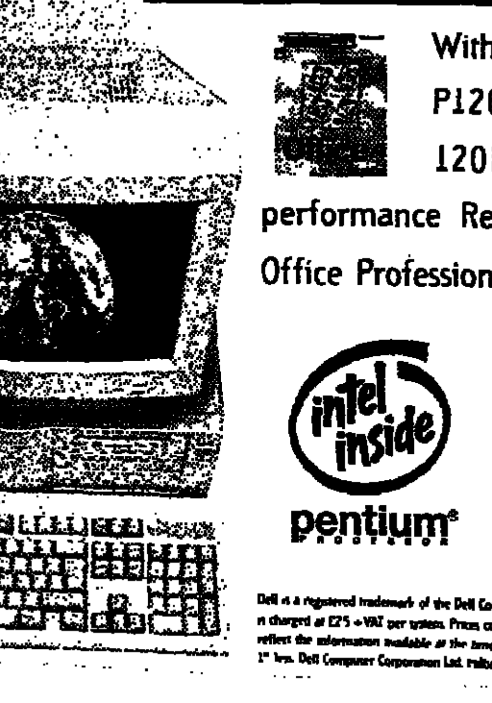

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High Court to be told Army withheld evidence about death of Parachute Regiment captain

Coroner seeks new inquest on officer shot in exercise

Captain Kelly: he died after being mistaken for a target

By Andrew Pierce

A CORONER has taken the rare step of appealing to the High Court to overturn an inquest verdict on a captain in The Parachute Regiment who was shot during a training exercise.

Potentially crucial information relating to the death of Captain Christopher Kelly, 26, was not submitted by the Army to the inquest at Southwark Crown Court in January 1995.

Three verbal warnings from a major who had taken part in the training exercise in Kenya, about the danger of a "serious accident", were not made known to the coroner. The final warning was only eight days before the accident, which was two years ago today. The captain, who was educated at Cambridge, suffered fatal gunshot wounds at Archers Post, Kenya, on March 25, 1994. He died five weeks later.

Captain Kelly, who had become engaged a month earlier, had mistakenly positioned his 11-man anti-tank platoon in the line of fire of advancing troops and a private mistook his silhouette for a wooden target.

His parents, who have campaigned unsuccessfully for the publication of the Army's board of inquiry into the accident, are suing the Ministry of Defence for negligence.

The major, who was back in Britain when the accident happened, was interviewed by the Army's special investigation branch about Captain Kelly's death. He wrote a report in which he reiterated his warnings of the risk of a serious accident.

The report, and his verbal warnings, were not made known to Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark Coroner, who conducted the inquest. They will form the basis of a new inquest if the High Court accepts the application from Sir Montague to quash the original verdict of accidental death.

His parents, Denis and Suzanne Kelly, have formally served notice of their intention to sue the Ministry of Defence for damages for alleged negligence. The Royal British Legion, which has been advising the family of Captain Kelly, was made aware of the major's warnings and report last year.

The details were passed to the coroner who referred the information to Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General. He has given the coroner leave to appeal to the High Court to quash the inquest verdict and set up a new hearing. A hearing has now been scheduled for May.

Mrs Kelly, who lives in Crowthorne, Berkshire, a short distance from Sandhurst staff college where her son trained, said yesterday: "My son was totally committed to the Army. He was loyal to the end. We have been told that he had a great future ahead of him. But what do these lads get in return? The regiment was marvellous after his death but the Ministry of Defence is blocking us at every turn. They even told us not to bother attending the inquest because it was only a formality. It was only the intervention of the coroner which ensured I was present. I was astonished to see how many legal advisers the Army had assembled for a supposedly routine formality." The inquest lasted six days and the jury returned a verdict by a 7-2 majority.

The Ministry of Defence has held a board of inquiry but its conclusions have not been published. Mrs Kelly said: "We have spent two years trying to find out about the inquiry but there is always some excuse. At times you feel like giving up but the Royal British Legion has been a tremendous support to us. Without it we might simply have given up. If it had not been for the fact that my son was an officer we might have been treated even worse."

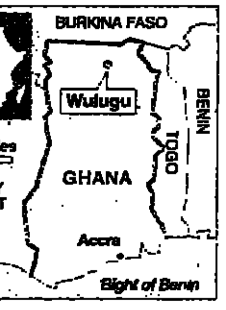
After the inquest Sir Montague called for a review to ensure that commanders in any live firing exercise should be aware that every section was in its correct position. He said there should also be a review of methods of taping all radio messages passed between different units. The evidence, he said, "appears to bristle with conflicts and doubts".

Science teacher takes gifts and advice to her adopted tribe

Lynne Symonds taking a sixth form chemistry class at Hethersett Old Hall with, left to right, Sarah Cowey, Khaleeda Siraj and Emma Scott

SIMON WALKER

By Carol Midgley



LYNNE SYMONDS was last week demonstrating the mild oxidation of ethanol to pupils at the independent girls' school in Norfolk where she teaches science. In a few days' time she will be playing to a very different audience as she is inaugurated as the new chief of a tribe in Ghana.

Mrs Symonds, 42, whose husband is a pig farmer, sets off at the weekend to become third in command of the Mamprusi tribe, which traditionally gives her the power to mete out the death sentence. Leaders in the village of Wulugu decided to give her the title Mamprugipuidinaba — although she will be known as Madame Lynne — after she visited their school and organised an appeal in Britain for textbooks. Its success enabled a library to be set up.

Mrs Symonds should now be saving her hair and nail clippings to be buried with her after death, but yesterday she was more concerned with what traditional English gifts to take for the villagers.

"I thought an inscribed pewter tankard would be nice for the Nayiiri, the paramount chief, and some T-shirts for some of the women and children," she said. "My husband Roger has collected some footballs for the boys and I will take over some books about Norfolk."

Mrs Symonds, who has daughters aged 19 and 24, and her husband will fly to Accra on Sunday and make the 473-mile journey by car to Wulugu, one of the most under-developed villages in Ghana. Throughout the four-hour chief-making ceremony she will sit on a throne of animal skins dressed in tribal robes and hold a walking stick which is linked to the health and success of the chief.

She will then be empowered to settle disputes between her subjects in 13 villages and offer advice on divorce, although she is sure her opinion will be sought only on education.

"It all began three years ago when I was at an education conference in Tokyo. I got talking to Karimu Nachina, the headmaster of the school at Wulugu, and he asked me how I coped when one of my pupils died.

"I was a bit shocked and explained that our pupils didn't die. It turned out that one of his 16-year-old girls had become very ill after an abortion which went wrong and this was not uncommon."

Mrs Symonds learnt that facilities were very poor. Girls whose families lived in villages miles from the school were forced to board with locals, which often led to abuse. She began the books appeal and set about trying to forge links between schools in Britain and Ghana and is passionate about developing science education. She is also helping to raise money to build a boarding house for the 80 girl pupils so they can sleep in safety. So far £5,000 has been raised.

Partly as a result of the library, which is stocked with Shakespeare plays and science textbooks, five Wulugu students have gained entrance to university.

"I expect my main role will be to advise local women, particularly on education development issues," she said. "Education is a major step to putting right a lot of Third World problems. Women need to be able to read the instructions on a seed packet or box of contraceptives. Many women sell food for a living but if they cannot read or write they can be taken advantage of."

However, she added, the benefits were not just one way. "The girls at my school, Old Hall, are learning so much about a completely different culture. We have started letter exchange schemes which I am hoping other schools in Britain will join in too."

She added: "It doesn't involve money or take much time and is really just about the pupils writing letters. They get a wider view of the world and wonderful insight into another culture."

Mrs Symonds, who will spend 12 days in Ghana before returning to her school and home in Hethersett, expects to be able to visit her tribe only twice a year as flights to Accra cost more than £500, even with a charity fare discount. Most of her advice will be transmitted by letter.

While in Wulugu she will eat rice, sweet potatoes, eggs and guinea fowl. During her last visit the governor of the school gave her a goat as a gift. "The next time I saw it was when we had liver for breakfast the next day," she said.

Flap over cat could be settled by DNA

A COUPLE who went to court to have DNA tests on a Burmese cat claimed yesterday that the results prove it was their missing pet. John and June Bell said they now hoped Jim and Marion Somers would hand him over.

The Bells, from Inverkip near Greenock, lost their pet, called Jack, in April 1994. They went to court at the end of last year convinced they had tracked him down to Glencarse, near Perth, but the Somers — who call the cat Clyde — disputed it was Jack.

A sheriff finally decided that DNA tests should be carried out and blood was taken from the cat to compare with samples from Jack's sister and father.

Mrs Bell, who runs dog kennels with her husband, said yesterday: "We have got the results and it is definitely Jack. I am delighted. I have known all along."

The Bells expect the matter will return to Perth Sheriff Court to be concluded. The Somers were not available for comment.

Woman to sue after elephant's log trick

Huseyim: had stitches

LONDON ZOO is being sued by a woman who claims an elephant hurled a branch that struck her on the head.

Fatma Huseyin, 24, of Palmers Green, north London, was visiting the zoo with her boyfriend when the alleged incident happened. Ibrahim Sabri, 33, also from Palmers Green, said: "I had to soak up the blood with a packet of cigarette papers. The first aid post was closed for some reason."

Ms Huseyin was taken by taxi to the University College Hospital casualty department where she needed three stitches. Since then she says she has suffered from headaches and sickness.

Paul Cairaschi, her solicitor, said: "Fortunately the stitches are above her hairline. We believe that the log should not have been in the enclosure in the first place and that patrons should not be put at risk like this.

"The zoo refused to get an ambulance for Fatma because she was not unconscious, and then reluctantly agreed to pay for a taxi to take her to hospital."

A spokesman for London Zoo said that the incident was being investigated internally. She said: "London Zoo can confirm that a member of the public received medical attention from a qualified first aid certificate holder following an incident in the elephant house.

"London Zoo policy states that if a visitor loses consciousness, an ambulance is called automatically and immediately. The first aider believed the visitor would need stitches on her forehead and therefore organised a taxi to take her to hospital. On departure, the visitor asked for her thanks to be transmitted to the duty manager and other staff."

Tribesmen prepare to meet lamb of God

A STUFFED lamb is to be flown 10,000 miles from Nottingham to Papua New Guinea because members of a remote tribe and their children want to see one for the first time. The tribe made the bizarre request after reading about lambs in Bibles supplied by missionaries.

The children were fascinated by the creatures and missionaries contacted the Natural History Museum in London to ask for one. The museum contacted Wollaton Hall Museum in Nottingham, which has a collection of stuffed animals and staff there obtained the lamb from Helen Sharp, a taxidermist.

Miss Sharp, of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, said: "There are a lot of lambs in the Bible and the children were curious about them. The Natural History Museum no longer employs taxidermists so they passed the request on to me. With this lamb they can see the size of the animal and feel its coat." The lamb, which died of natural causes, will go to New Guinea next month.

Baronet sacks wife as school head

By Emma Wilkins

Sir Alford, who sacked Eliana as head after she allegedly had an affair with Guy Holloway

THE owner of a prep school has sacked his wife from her post as headmistress amid allegations that she had an affair with the director of studies. Sir Alford Houstoun-Boswall, 48, called a staff meeting at the Harrodian School last week and announced that Eliana, 51, had been dismissed.

Guy Holloway, a 28-year-old Cambridge graduate, resigned as director of studies last week. Martin Carcon, the deputy headmaster, is the new acting head in charge of more than 100 pupils at the school where fees are £6,000 a year.

A teacher at the school said yesterday: "There was a meeting on Tuesday and Sir Alford sacked his wife as headmistress. Guy resigned more than a week ago and all the staff are very sorry because we were extremely fond of all of them."

The couple are to divorce after 25 years of marriage. They founded the school in September 1993 on a site previously occupied by Harrods' sports and social club in Barnes, southwest London. The pair, whose children are Alexander, 23, and Julia, 17, fought a long-running legal battle with Harrods over the use of the name "Harrodian". The department store claimed that the name had been used in connection with Harrods for more than 100 years, but lost the case.

Last year Sir Alford, the eighth Baronet, sent bailiffs to Harrods to select goods worth £130,000 for seizure to settle a court bill. Harrods was granted an appeal last month against his use of the Harrodian name.

Mr Holloway, who read English literature at Peterhouse, Cambridge, shared Lady Houstoun-Boswall's high expectations for the students. She chose him as director after he had tutored her daughter when the family lived in Paris. In Mr Holloway's English classes, he expected eight-year-olds to read *Romeo and Juliet* and to be able to take dictation from Donne, Virginia Woolf and James Joyce.

Sir Alford, a former New York art lecturer, is said to be sharing his home with a 28-year-old Bangladeshi woman. The family's £1.6 million home in Kensington, west London, was sold last month.

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We remain committed to Britain and the British food industry. In 1995 we sourced over £240 million worth of food from British suppliers.

Our customers always have been and always will be our first concern.”

However, from Thursday 28th March we will be selling hamburgers, Big Macs and quarterpounders now made exclusively from non-British beef.

Meanwhile, all our restaurants will remain open, serving chicken and fish products and of course, fries, drinks and breakfast.

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Sinn Fein supporters at University of Texas accused of publishing 'terrorism crib sheet'

Ulster security details posted on the Internet

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

A TERRORISTS' "crib sheet" giving detailed information about MI5 installations and military bases in Northern Ireland, together with RUC stations, has been posted on the Internet.

Police are studying the entry placed by Sinn Fein supporters on a site run from within an American university. In Britain the information could contravene the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Emergency Powers Act and the Official Secrets Act, but police are powerless to act. Anti-terrorist officers in London are concerned at the detail and breadth of the material, as well as its propaganda value. The site also includes fund-raising appeals.

Andrew Hunter, chairman of the Conservative's Northern Ireland group and MP for Basingstoke, said he planned to raise Sinn Fein's use of the Internet with Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. He said the entry was clearly propaganda. "It sounds horrifying. I had no idea Sinn Fein was using the Internet. There is concern about fund-raising."

Internet readers can find addresses for the director and co-ordinator of intelligence for Northern Ireland and the headquarters of SAS and special military intelligence units. They can browse through all the Army's Ulster installations and gather details such as addresses of an alleged MI5 base and two GCHQ substations. Military barracks said to be linked to SAS and Army undercover units are listed and the details also cover Army surveillance posts in South Armagh and permanent checkpoints throughout the Province.

Apart from giving the address of every RUC station, the Internet file describes the force's building plans. The locations of bases used by scenes-of-crimes officers, RUC workshops, training units and RUC mobile response units are listed. The site also features a map showing Army bases which, like all the posted material, can be downloaded onto computers and printed. Army helicopter bases are also highlighted.

Within a few hours of *The Times* talking to a woman whose name was linked with the site, it was moved from the host computer at the University of Texas to a new location. Jackie Dana's name and references to the university were removed.

A senior security source said: "The Internet pages point out what would be potential targets. Someone has gone quite carefully into it and pulled a lot of things together. It would not be far from the truth in calling it a terrorism crib sheet. There is nothing we can do about it." He added: "It underlines the problems of policing the Internet. There is worry about what is accessible on the Internet which is causing concern among governments, but no one is quite sure how to deal with it."

Hunter: said the entry was clearly propaganda

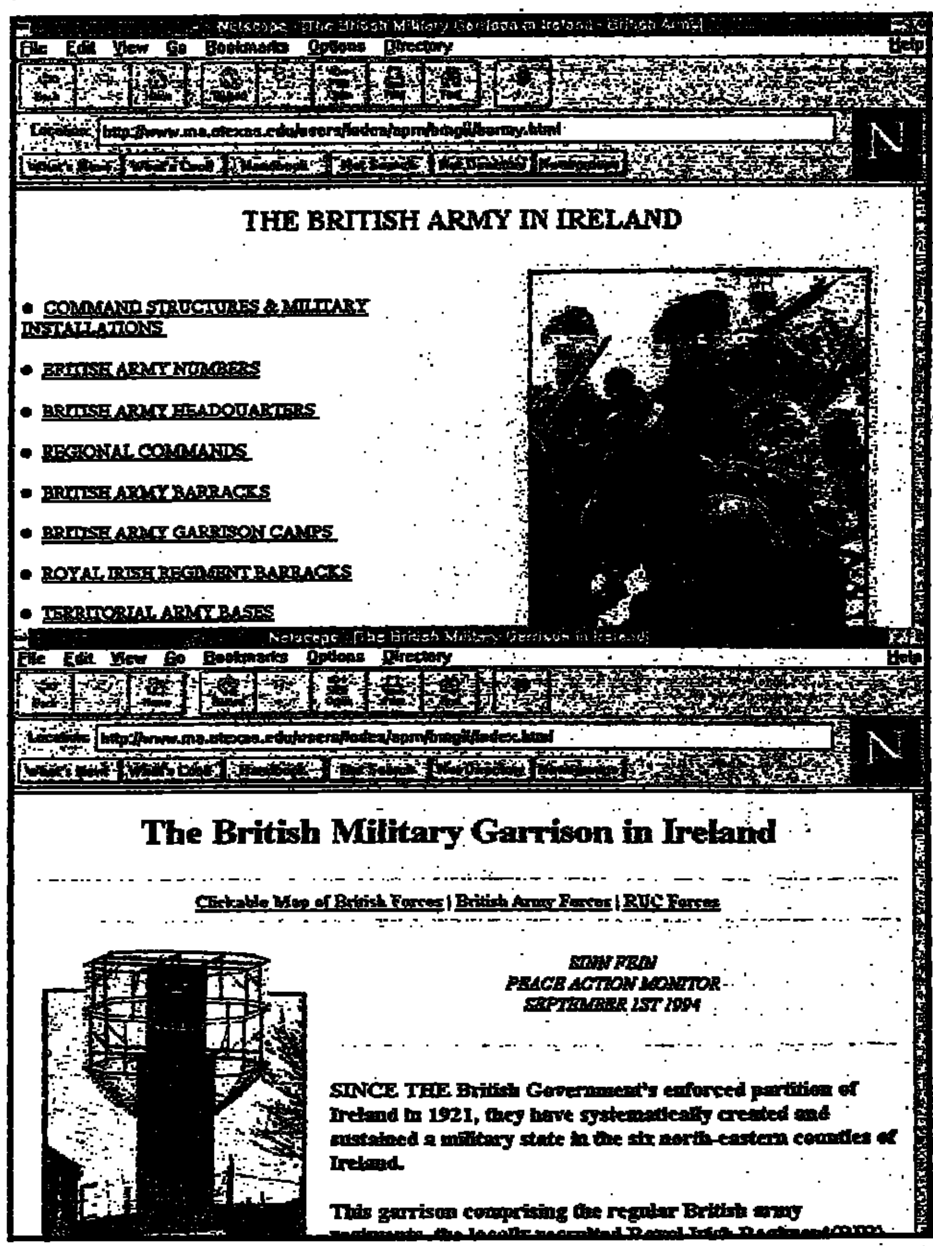
A spokesman for the Army in Northern Ireland said: "We do take note of material on the Internet which may have a security or military reference but as a matter of policy we do not comment on Sinn Fein propaganda." Military sources said some of the information was old or inaccurate.

A spokesman for the University of Texas said there was a policy of free speech for the university's Internet facilities, but the university was investigating the use of the site.

The Internet entry is called *The British Military Garrison in Ireland* and is headed "Sinn Fein Peace Action Monitor, September 1st 1994." It was placed on a World Wide Web site used by Sinn Fein through the maths department of the university in Austin.

The entry says the material was originally published by *An Phoblacht*, Sinn Fein's weekly newspaper. Readers are also told the material was "archived as a public resource" with help from an Irish interest group at the university and Ms Dana, a student development specialist in the university's sociology department.

Asked about the entry, Ms Dana said the information came from a Sinn Fein pamphlet published some time ago. She denied it was a terrorist crib sheet. "It shows how incredibly extensive the British army of occupation in Ireland is," she said. She was not a member of Sinn Fein but she agreed with their views.



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THE BRITISH ARMY IN IRELAND

- COMMAND STRUCTURES & MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
- BRITISH ARMY NUMBERS
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- BRITISH ARMY GARRISON CAMPS
- ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT BARRACKS
- TERRITORIAL ARMY BASES

Netscape - [The British Military Garrison in Ireland]
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The British Military Garrison in Ireland

Clickable Map of British Forces | British Army Forces | RUC Forces

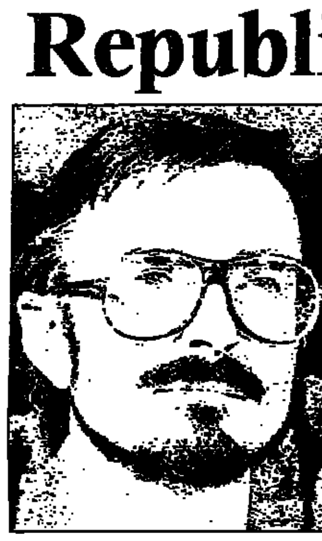
SINN FEIN
PEACE ACTION MONITOR
SEPTEMBER 1ST 1994

SINCE THE British Government's enforced partition of Ireland in 1921, they have systematically created and sustained a military state in the six north-eastern counties of Ireland.

This garrison comprising the regular British army

After inquiries by *The Times*, the entry was moved from the university to a new site

Republicans cheer as Labour MP attacks peace process



Austin-Walker: criticised delays and prevarication

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

A LEFT-wing Labour MP won applause at Sinn Fein's annual conference yesterday for a stinging attack on John Major's handling of the peace process.

John Austin-Walker, MP for Woolwich, who is chairman of the Campaign Group of Labour MPs, praised Gerry Adams and said that Mr Major's plan for elections in Northern Ireland showed that the Prime Minister had eaten too much beef. Mr Austin-Walker, who said he disagreed with Labour's bipartisan approach over Northern Ireland, told the conference in Dublin that Mr Major had repeatedly frustrated the start of all-party talks.

Standing on a platform within yards of leading republicans, the MP said: "I understand the anger and frustration felt by the nationalist community in the face of delay after delay as a weak British Prime Minister has prevaricated and placed obstacles in the way of talks while pandering to the Unionists to keep his Westminster majority."

Praising Sinn Fein as a "genuine political party", Mr Austin-Walker said it was wrong of the British Government to exclude the party from talks. He added: "Those citizens who voted for Sinn Fein had no part in Canary Wharf, and yet they are disenfranchised and not allowed a voice in the peace talks."

After the speech Mr Austin-Walker said he agreed with Sinn Fein's accusation that the British Government was to blame for the collapse of the peace process. He added, however: "That does not justify the action taken by the IRA." He condemned IRA violence and called on the terrorist leadership to restore its ceasefire.

His speech will be an embarrassment to the Labour leadership, which has pursued a bipartisan approach with the Government over Northern Ireland. Some Labour backbenchers have criticised Mr Blair's handling of the issue and a group rebelled earlier this month when Labour abstained over the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Mr Austin-Walker's speech came as the Sinn Fein leadership toughened its opposition to Mr Major's election plan. Martin McGuinness told the conference that Sinn Fein would meet the SDLP in the next week to press for a boycott.

However, Mr McGuinness left the way open to participation in the election when he said: "This party has no fear whatsoever of elections. We have consistently established . . . a very substantial electoral mandate which has made Sinn Fein one of the most important political parties in the north of our country."

His comments indicated that Sinn Fein was likely to agree eventually to stand in the elections, although it will boycott the forum. The leadership's stance is designed to reassure republicans that Sinn Fein is not wavering in its strong opposition to what it perceives as the establishment of a Stormont-style assembly.

Sinn Fein's conference, held a month before the 80th anniversary of the Easter Rising in 1916, was carefully designed to sell a moderate image of the party to the outside world while reassuring activists that it has not abandoned its core republican ideals. It was held at the ornate Ambassador cinema in Parnell Square, where the Irish Volunteers were founded in 1905.

The leadership sat framed by an understated light blue backdrop and the garish posters and slogans of old conferences were not on view. However, the faces of the ten republican hunger strikers who died in 1981 could just be made out in faded pictures on the top of the set.

Cathedral siege man surrenders

A two-day armed siege at Northampton's Roman Catholic cathedral ended peacefully yesterday when a man surrendered to police shortly after 7am. A shotgun was found inside the building.

The siege began at 3pm on Friday after a man spoke to a trainee priest, Gareth Forster. Mr Forster contacted police after the 39-year-old man, who had had a row with his former wife, told him he was armed.

In search of elms

A nationwide survey is being launched to monitor the survivors of Dutch elm disease. Readers of *Country Living* are being urged to locate specimens that have proved resistant to disease so they can be used for propagating new trees.

Teenager burnt

A teenager was badly burnt when he was attacked by two youths who lit the propellant in a can of deodorant and sprayed it into his face. Michael Coombes, 15, had been riding his bike when was stopped and attacked in Peacehaven, East Sussex.

Sizewell opens

Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk is due to be opened officially today by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade. The plant, which began generating electricity 13 months ago, has been the subject of environmental protests for the past 15 years.

Bin warning

Householders who leave their empty "wheelie bins" on the pavement after rubbish collections risk being prosecuted by Nottingham City Council for obstructing the highway. Every home in the city is being sent a warning leaflet.

Lottery winners

Nine players shared this week's £7.9 million National Lottery jackpot, each receiving £877,907. Ninety-eight people won £24,807 each by matching five numbers and the bonus ball and 1,962 matched five to win £774.

Winning numbers, page 24.

Brain-damaged attack victim taps out crucial information for police

By Stephen Farrell

DETECTIVES believe they are on the verge of a breakthrough in the case of paralysed musician who emerged from a 15-month coma to spell out the message that someone had tried to kill him.

Geoffrey Wildsmith, 21, spends two hours a day painstakingly tapping out a few words on a special computer that is his only means of communication. Slowly but surely he has told British Transport Police how he came to be found on a train with part of his skull and brain missing. By the end of next week his statement should be complete, and the police are confident he can provide clues as to who attacked him. Mr Wildsmith was injured on the 11.33pm Portsmouth to Woking train on April 23, 1994. He emerged from a coma after 15 months, but he still cannot talk and is virtually blind. He is also paralysed, apart from some movement in the knuckle of his right-hand middle finger.

He communicates through a special computer software package, his right hand placed across his chest and his knuckle over a touchpad. As a screen cursor and electronic voice move through the alphabet, he hits the electronic pad when the right letter comes up, putting words together.

The police team, trained in the rules of obtaining video evidence, is headed by Detective Inspector Ron Wainer. "Progress is really, really slow," he said yesterday. "The most we are getting out of him is about two sentences a day. The temptation of helping Geoffrey out by looking for a yes/no answer is great, but one mistake or leading question and we could lose the whole job."

Geoffrey's mother, Marinette Appassamy, 42, from Guildford, Surrey, visits him up to five times a week, although she cannot use the computer to communicate with him because others need it. She said she never believed doctors who told her that her son's personality was gone.

"After Geoffrey had been in intensive care two weeks we had a meeting with the consultant and he wiped the floor with us," she said. "He said the Geoffrey we knew was not coming back and would never have any intelligence."

However she said Geoffrey had always opened his eyes when she entered the room, which kept her going. "I am his mother and you know your child. He has proved them wrong so far, and he can carry on proving them wrong."

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Aircraft fire caused by wrong circuit breaker

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A WRONG circuit breaker fitted to a British Airways jumbo jet led to a mid-air fire which, had it happened earlier in the flight, could have caused a crash and the deaths of 358 people.

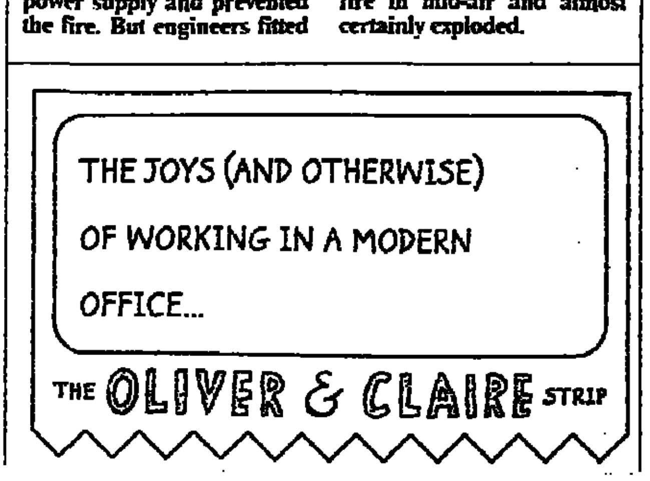
Air accident investigators believe that a fire which broke out in the passenger cabin of a Boeing 747-400 shortly before it came in to land at Heathrow after a 11-hour flight from Johannesburg on January 22 was caused by a surge of electrical power through wires to the jet's humidifier.

Normally the circuit-breaker would have cut off the power supply and prevented the fire. But engineers fitted 25 amp breakers, instead of 2.5 amp, in two places. The powerful surge of electricity melted wires behind the cabin wall when the breaker failed to trip.

After the incident it was discovered that a second Boeing 747-400 also had a wrong circuit breaker.

The incident began as the jet was flying at 39,000 ft over Abbeville in France. A passenger noticed sparks coming from the air conditioning vent and a burning smell.

BA engineers are convinced that had the fire broken out any earlier, the aircraft could have caught fire in mid-air and almost certainly exploded.



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Eurovision hopeful faces big screen test

GINA G, the Australian-born singer who is to represent Britain at the Eurovision Song Contest on May 18 before a television audience of more than 300 million, still gets stage fright after a disastrous performance early in her career.

"I keep telling people that I won't be nervous, but I'm really just trying to convince myself," she said yesterday. "The first time I ever had to sing live on television, the performance was transmitted live to the whole of Australia. Nerves killed me that night. I was shaking and I dried up. My first line was just a mess. It was awful."

Before the competition the 25-year-old from Queensland will be singing live as often as possible to polish her act. Her next scheduled performance is on Thursday's *Top of the Pops*. "I'm so busy I don't even have time for a boyfriend. The only male in my life is Dillon, my horse," she said.

SIMON WALKER

Nervous wait: Gina G will be singing for Britain in Europe on May 18

Better awareness and treatment cuts death rate

Breast cancer is finally in retreat after 30 years

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BREAST cancer, the greatest scourge of women in the Western world, is in retreat after three decades during which the toll from the disease mounted to record levels. A comparison of death rates in 20 countries has shown that in 16 the steep rise in earlier years has levelled off or started to fall.

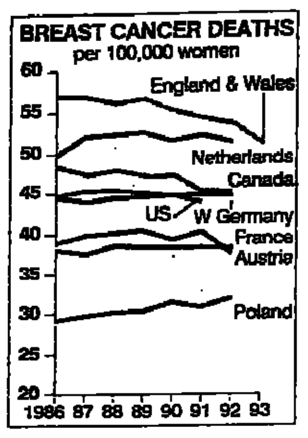
The UK has recorded the biggest fall, of more than 10 per cent since 1989 in women under 80, saving at least 1,000 lives a year. The death rate rose by 30 per cent in the previous three decades to put Britain at the top of the league for breast-cancer deaths.

Although other countries have seen similar falls since the late 1980s, the size of the drop in Britain means it is no longer the breast-cancer capital of the world. The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and New Zealand now have similar death rates to Britain's.

Breast cancer is the commonest female cancer, claiming 600,000 lives a year worldwide. Although deaths are falling in the West, they are rising in Eastern Europe and the developing world.

Dr Valerie Beral, who carried out the study published in the *British Journal of Cancer* today, said it was encouraging that the fall in the UK death rate, first reported last year, was continuing and was being mirrored in Europe and North America. Total UK deaths from breast cancer were below 13,000 in 1994 compared with 14,008 in 1989.

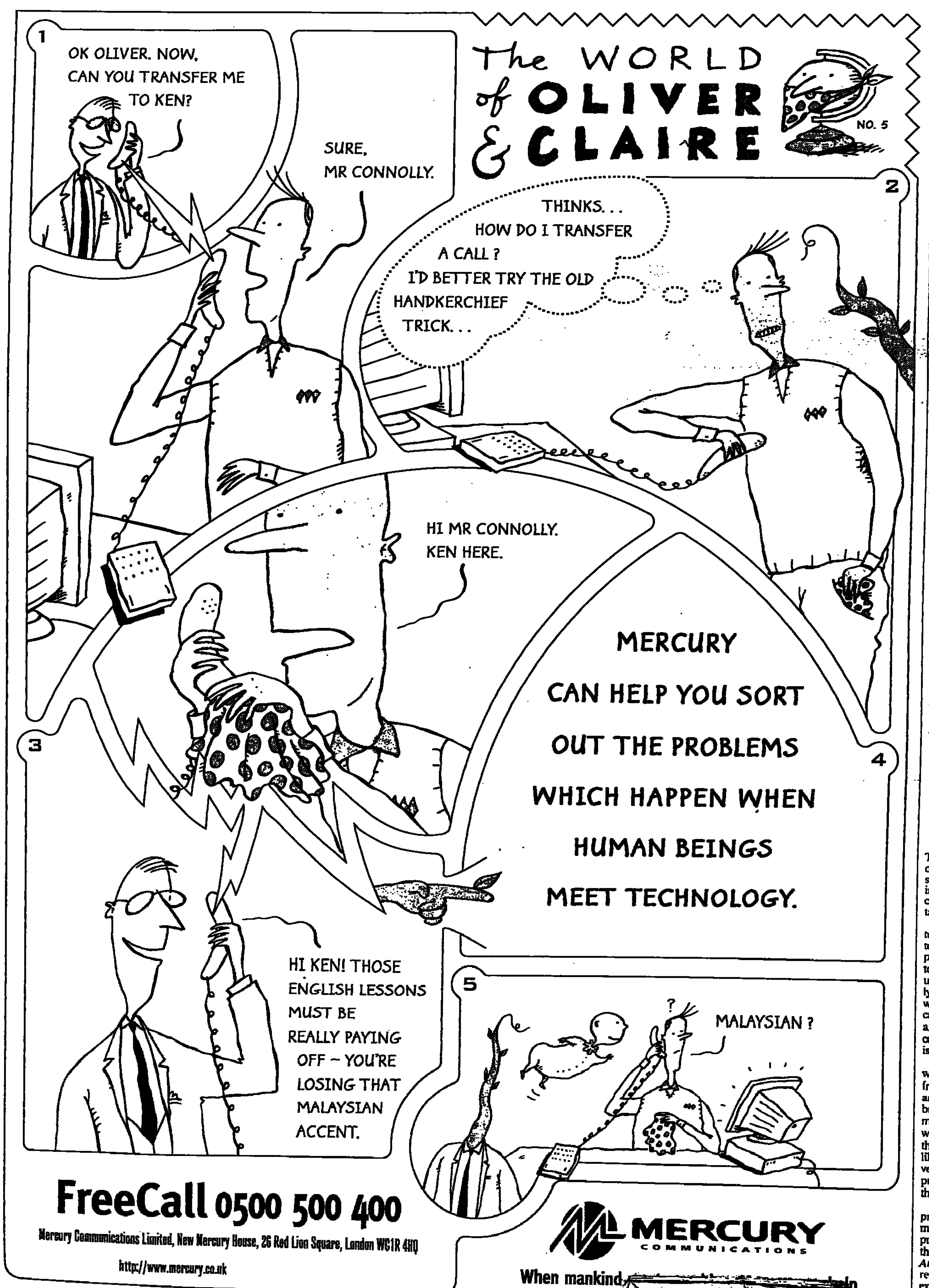
In all countries the decline began earliest and is most marked for women under 50. The decrease is too sudden to be wholly due to a fall in the number of women developing the disease. Dr Beral, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's epidemiology unit in Oxford, said: "The sharp decline may well have something to do with treatment. There is better awareness of breast cancer and people are coming forward earlier. There has been a great effort to do something about it and it looks as if it is working."



Drug treatments for breast cancer, such as tamoxifen, have been more widely used in the past decade, in addition to surgery and radiotherapy. This increase in chemotherapy has come on top of changes in child-bearing patterns. Having babies, especially at a young age, protects against breast cancer. In Britain and other western European countries, there was a surge in births after the Second World War, reducing the proportion of childless women from a fifth to a tenth, resulting in a drop in breast cancer in women in their fifties and sixties.

Dr Beral said: "There is a move towards similar child-bearing rates across the world and breast cancer rates are converging. Countries with a high death rate, such as the UK and Canada, are going down and countries with a low death rate, such as Poland and Spain, where people are having fewer children later, are coming up. However, worldwide the numbers dying are worse than a decade ago because the death rate is rising in developing countries."

☐ Endometriosis, a painful womb condition affecting one woman in ten, is often not diagnosed for more than seven years after symptoms appear, according to a report by the National Endometriosis Society.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Beware sting in royal jelly tale

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE Princess of Wales is reported to be back on lunching terms with her step-family, but what they ate at the London hotel where they met and whether the menu included royal jelly is not recorded.

Nobody could have done more to enhance the popularity of royal jelly than Dame Barbara Cartland, the Princess's step-grandmother, whose own appearance adds credence to claims that the jelly wards off some of the signs and symptoms of old age. It is also reputed to ease the suffering experienced by people with chronic degenerative diseases, such as osteoarthritis.

Royal jelly is the sticky, thick, milky spit derived from the salivary glands of the worker bee which is essential for the proper maturation of the queen bee and contains complex proteins.

Although the good which royal jelly may do has not been proved, two recent reports in *The Medical Journal of Australia*, one in the *British Medical Journal* and a review of the jelly's use in the magazine *Hospital Update* explain clearly its possible danger when people use it who are sensitive to it. Acute asthma, respiratory distress, anaphylactic shock and even death have followed the taking of the jelly by people who have a history of asthma or other allergies. A possible hazard is that some of the proprietary names of the product give little clue as to its main constituent.

The case reported in the BMJ is typical. The patient was a woman who had previously suffered only from mild asthma, but 40 minutes after taking two capsules of royal jelly her pulse was racing at 130 beats a minute and her normal breathing had been replaced by ten faint sighs a minute, so feeble that they could not be heard through a stethoscope. Blue and semi-comatose, the woman's life was saved only by a ventilator and a cocktail of intravenous drugs. Surprisingly, six weeks after discharge from hospital, the patient allowed hope to triumph over experience and took another dose of royal jelly; once again she went into respiratory distress and again she survived.

The *Australian Medical Journal* reports several cases of respiratory distress and collapse after taking royal jelly: in these instances the symptoms started between 20 minutes and two hours after taking it. Interestingly, the patients' skin tested positive for royal jelly, but not to bee stings. *Hospital Update* recommends people with a history of asthma or other allergies should avoid royal jelly.

BBC tightens its code on decency

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is to tighten its code of practice on bad language, sex, violence and blasphemy in response to growing public concern about standards of taste and decency.

Under new guidelines for television and radio producers to be published this summer, programme-makers will have to take "greater care about the use of bad language, especially religious language". They will also need to show more caution in the portrayal of sex and the use of stereotypes in comedy, particularly with racist overtones.

The 9pm family viewing watershed, marking the point from which explicitly violent and sexual material can be broadcast, will be applied more stringently. Producers will also be required to ensure that programmes that are likely to be regarded as controversial or challenging are preceded by warnings about their content.

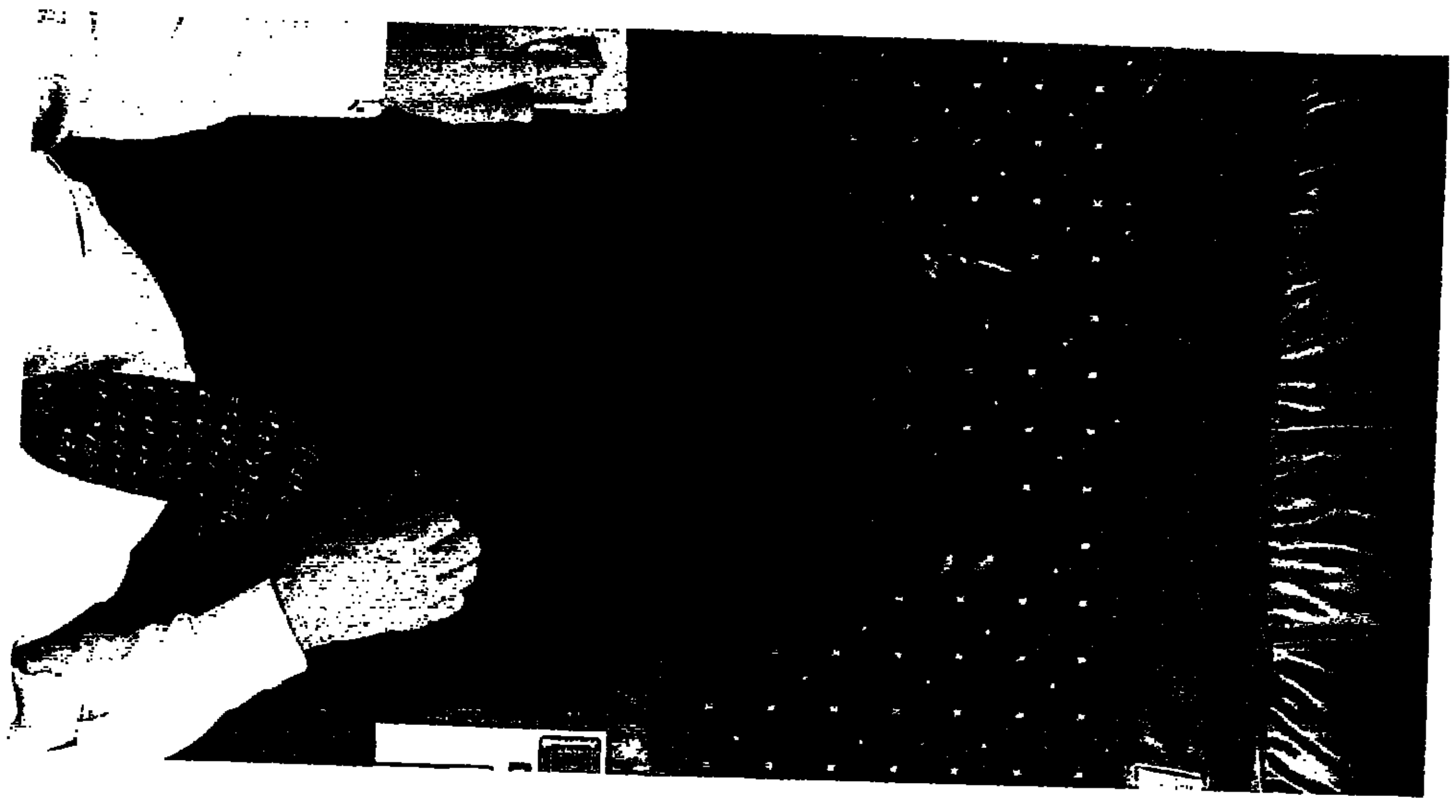
The new guidelines are prompted by concern about material in a wide range of programmes over the past three years, ranging from *The Archers* on Radio 4, which recently featured a mild expletive, to sex scenes in dramas such as *The Buddha of Suburbia* on BBC2. The code comes as a parting shot from Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman who retires next Monday after ten years. Last October he organised a seminar on taste and decency.

In a letter this week to the 125 experts and consumer representatives at the seminar, Mr Hussey said that the guidelines would "emphasise the concept of respect as a key issue in determining where the boundaries will lie in issues of taste, sex and language". The new guidelines would also "give more detailed and clear guidance relating to the portrayal of violence".

While sensitive to audience concern about standards of taste and decency, Mr Hussey is acutely aware of the difficulties producers face. "We are now broadcasting to a fragmented audience with very different views about what constitutes good taste and decent behaviour," he told the seminar.

For the first time the guidelines, which were last updated three years ago, single out the need for special care to be taken with the scheduling of radio programmes, particularly on Radios 1 and 4. Unlike television, radio has never operated a watershed policy.

A further BBC seminar, this time focusing on children's programmes, will be held in June to coincide with the publication of the guidelines.



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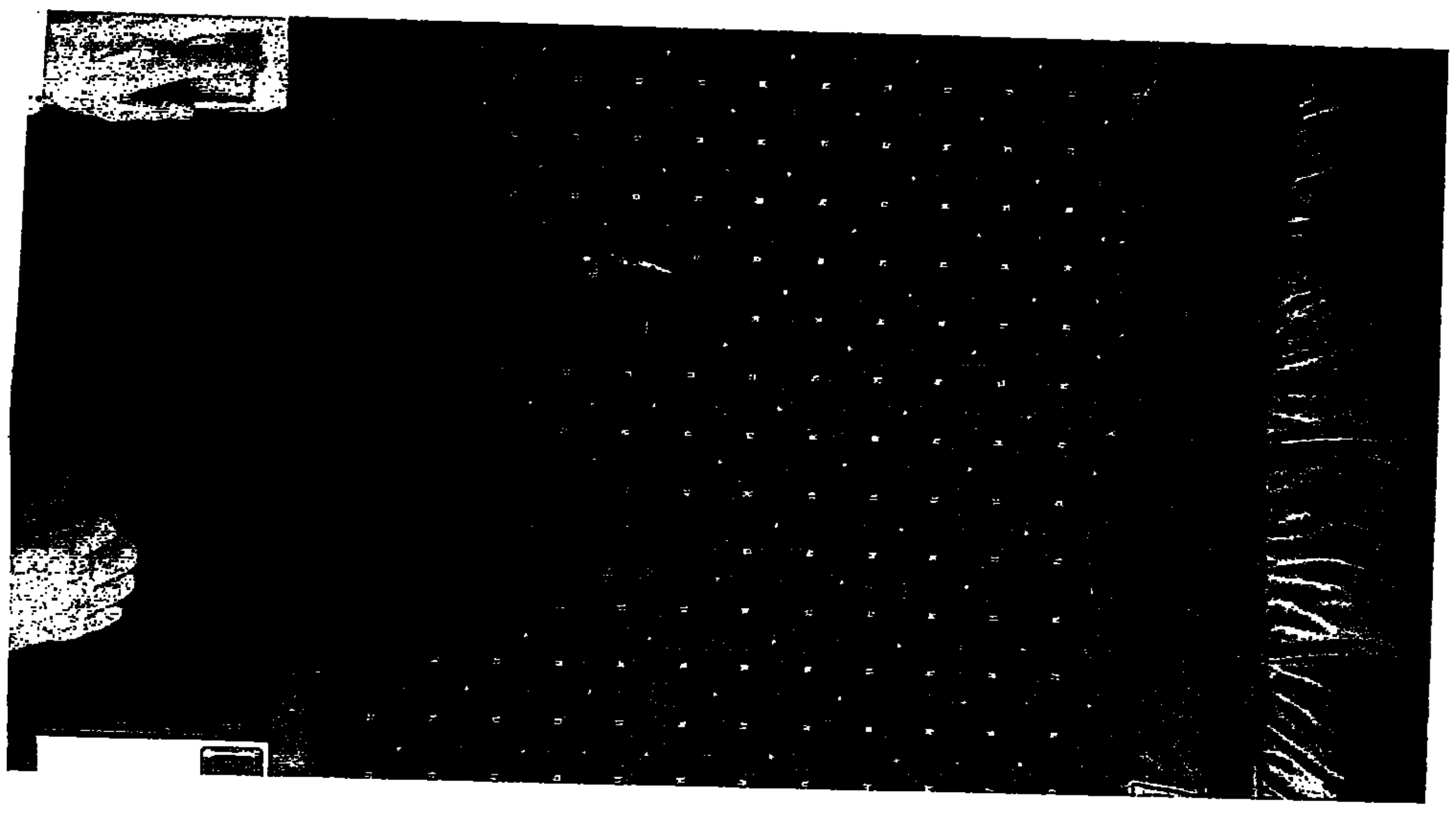

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Commission officials draft plans to compensate farmers for losses from slaughter and drop in prices

Calls grow for continent-wide ban on British beef

EUROPE

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

SENIOR European Union officials will be under strong pressure to introduce a continent-wide ban on British beef when they gather in Brussels today to draft a response to the BSE crisis.

With British beef now quarantined by ten EU states, the Standing Veterinary Committee is to advise on measures that the European Commission's farm section should take to limit the health risk from beef. Franz Fischler, the EU's Austrian Farm Commissioner, holds responsibility for a final decision, which will be put to the full Commission on Wednesday.

Commission officials are also drafting options for compensating British and European farmers for losses from a possible collapse in beef prices and the need to slaughter. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday that Britain was considering slaughter and expected Brussels to offer aid.

At present, there are no common agricultural policy funds available for emergency compensation for diseased cattle, although there is ample cash to subsidise producers of healthy beef should prices slide. On Friday, an independent body of EU experts gave some comfort to Britain by finding that there was still no evidence that BSE was transmissible to humans. However, it called for stricter measures, including the slaughter of all cattle at risk, mainly older animals that might have eaten feed containing animal remains before it was banned by the EU in 1990.

Germany and Ireland have said the advice is grossly inadequate to ensure against risk and ease consumers' fears. Most EU states are counting on the Commission to enforce at least a temporary ban pending further scientific advice. Britain has no veto on the veterinary committee. The Agriculture Ministry's officials will tell their EU colleagues that the Government's steps so far are adequate to safeguard health and will urge against any hasty decision to keep British meat out of the Union.

Herr Fischler will not only have to take account of the scientific arguments but also the psychological factor to head off a crisis in consumer confidence that could cripple Europe's multibillion-pound beef industry. At the same time, the Commission is determined to minimise the political impact on Britain. "We really don't want to look as if Europe is ganging up against England," a French Commission official said.

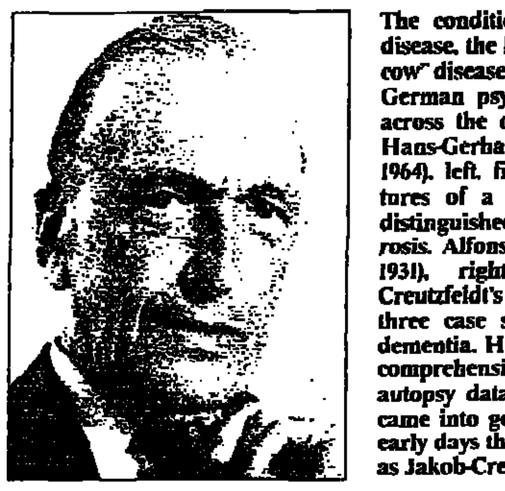
Germany is leading the campaign for a blanket ban. Horst Seehofer, the Health Minister, said the proposals for limited slaughter were "unsatisfactory and not acceptable". If the Commission failed to apply a ban, Germany would maintain its own.

British beef has now been barred from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden. As "mad cow" disease dominated public debate across the Continent over the weekend, police turned away lorry-loads of British beef away at the French-Belgian border and supermarkets rushed in labels proclaiming the pure origins of their meat.

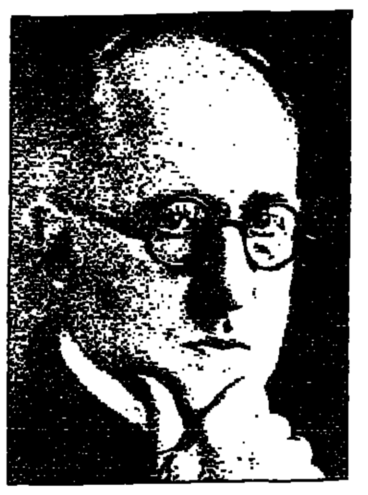
In France, Philippe de Villiers, the nationalist, anti-Maastricht politician who is allied to Sir James Goldsmith said his group was starting legal proceedings against the Commission for its failure to protect consumers. "I am saying that the Brussels Commission was aware that there were indications that the mad cow [disease] could be transmitted to man," said M de Villiers, who is an MEP as well as a member of the French parliament. "We also accuse it of hampering the state protection of consumers for the sake of the free movement of goods."

European consumer groups condemned the British Government's delay in taking decisive measures to combat BSE. "We believe that more stringent measures should have been taken during the mid-1980s when indications about the existence of the *BSE problem were first made public*," said Kees de Winter, of the Brussels-based European Consumers' Organisation.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Leading article, page 21



The condition Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of "mad cow" disease, was named after two German psychiatrists who came across the disease in the 1920s. Hans-Gerhard Creutzfeldt (1885-1964), left, first reported the features of a condition which he distinguished from multiple sclerosis. Alfons Maria Jakob (1884-1931), right, was aware of Creutzfeldt's work and presented three case studies of pre-senile dementia. He began to compile a comprehensive list of clinical and autopsy data. The eponym soon came into general use, but in its early days the disease was known as Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease.



OPTIONS FOR SLAUGHTER

1 **Slaughter entire herd:** least likely option. Would mean killing about 12 million cattle. Animals would probably be killed on farm with a lethal injection, as BSE cows are now. Incineration of carcasses would be a huge problem. Slaughter operation would have to be phased over several months.

Reason: only way to be sure of eradicating BSE because for every live animal that shows symptoms two others may be incubating the disease.

Cost: compensation for slaughtered animals at least £7 billion. But this could rise to £20 billion to cover loss of income while herds are rebuilt and assistance for others dependent on beef industry, such as abattoirs, processors, hauliers and exporters.

2 **Slaughter all herds that have had at least one case of BSE:** 54 per cent of dairy herds and 15 per cent of beef herds have had at least one case of BSE each. Could mean killing up to five million cattle. Would be *devastating in the South West of England where the dairy* industry is concentrated. Up to two thirds of farms in this area have had cases of BSE.

Reason: less expensive measure than wholesale slaughter but would still mean destroying hundreds of thousands of healthy animals.

Cost: about £4 billion in compensation for slaughtered animals. But up to £10 billion to cover income loss and assistance to rest of beef industry. Less costly variant of this option would involve killing only herds with highest *percentage of BSE cases.*

3 **Slaughter all animals born before a certain date:** historically, few cases of BSE have been found in any animal younger than 30 months old. No case has been found in any animal that has been born during the past 30 months. Could mean slaughtering up to 4.5 million cattle including thousands in herds that have never had a case of BSE. This may prove to be the Government's favoured option.

Reason: would eliminate older dairy cows which are the most likely to have eaten the scrapie-infected feed which was banned in July 1988 and are most likely to be harbouring BSE. But many beef cows are older than dairy cows and these would be destroyed too, even though few beef herds have had BSE.

Cost: up to £3.2 billion in compensation for slaughtered animals, but double or triple that to cover income loss and assistance to rest of beef industry.

4 ***Slaughter older animals but only those in herds* that have had a case of BSE:** would reduce the number of animals needing to be killed to about 800,000 if 1989 is chosen as the cut-off date. Far more would have to be killed if any animals older than 30 months are targeted for slaughter.

Reason: would put the emphasis on removing older dairy cows and reduce unnecessary destruction of suckler (beef) cows because far fewer beef herds have had BSE.

Cost: about £700 million if 1989 is chosen date, not counting cover for income loss or assistance to rest of beef industry. Much higher cost if later dates chosen.

5 **Destroy dairy cows at the end of their milking life:** about 790,000 old dairy cows go into the food chain annually for use in cheaper meat products and also for export. Disposal of the carcasses would be a problem if they could not be eaten.

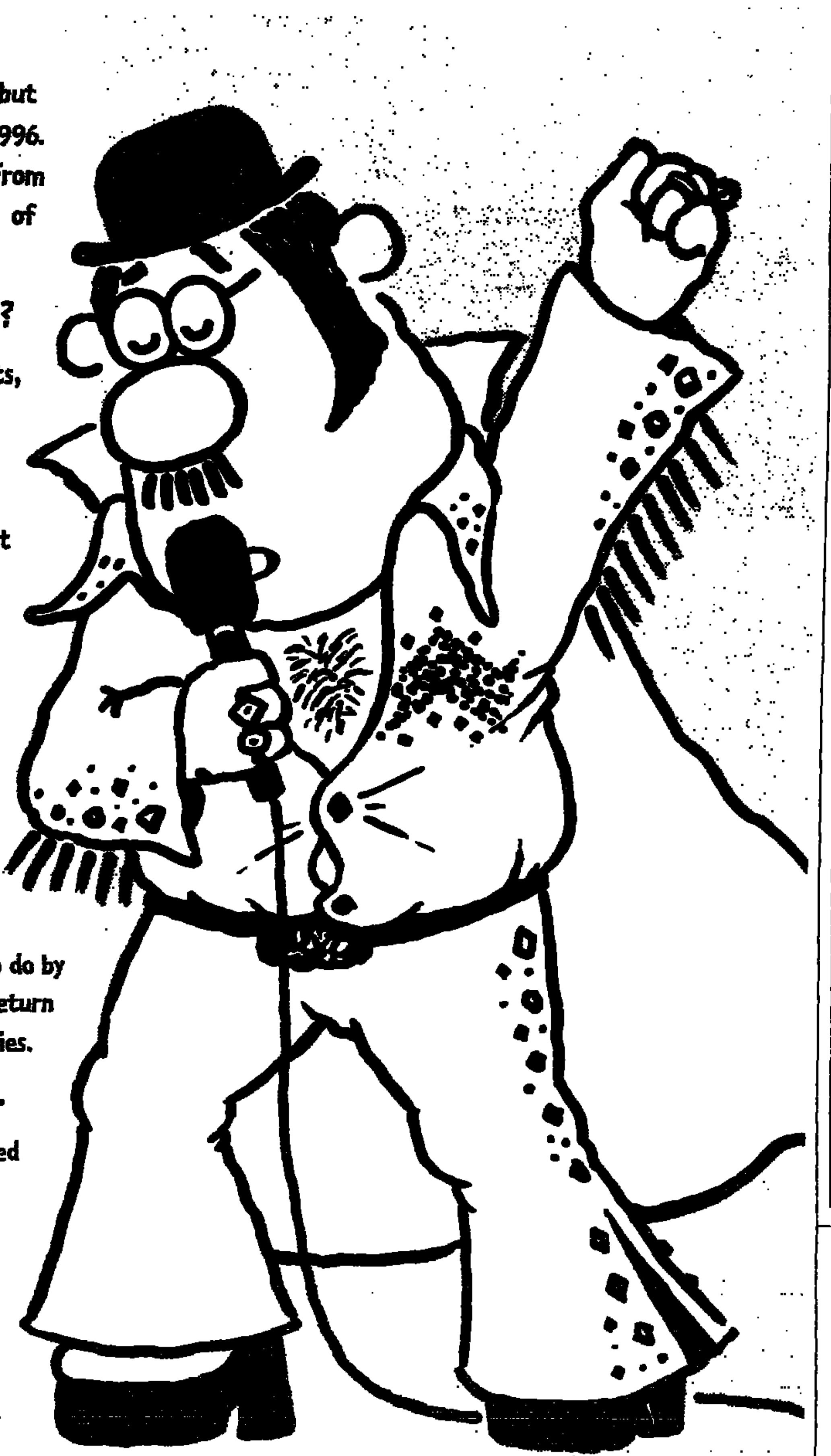
Reason: would take old dairy cows out of human food chain while still enabling farmers to earn income from milk production during the animals' lives. No BSE infectivity has ever been found in milk.

Cost: direct cost to farmers would be limited to the slaughter value of dairy cows, which is currently about £395 million a year.

6 **Change the methods of butchering dairy carcasses:** this would require new cutting plants to be set up in which meat would be removed from dairy cow carcasses in such a way as to avoid disturbing the spinal cord, the site of BSE infection, and spreading the contamination.

Reason: relatively easy to put into practice and would avoid costly slaughter of cattle, other than those animals which show BSE symptoms as under current policy. Would be seen by many as a minimalist solution insufficient to restore consumer confidence.

Cost: might be no more than £200 million.



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'We can't go on like this. The lifeblood of the industry is draining away'

Cattlemen face up to the slaughter of BSE herds

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BEEF FARMERS

CATTLE farmers are facing ruin as the panic over "mad cow" disease threatens a mass boycott of British beef and the end of lucrative foreign markets. Many are coming to the conclusion that the only chance of restoring consumer confidence lies in drastic action by the Government, including mass slaughter.

At stake is a multibillion-pound industry that has helped to shape the face of rural Britain. The value of cattle and calves slaughtered last year was £2.4 billion; milk and milk products earned farmers £3.5 billion. The beef and dairy industries are inextricably linked because up to two thirds of British beef comes from dairy herds in the form of unwanted calves and cows slaughtered at the end of their milking life.

Richard Haddock, who keeps 1,150 beef cattle at Kingswear, Devon, said: "We can't go on like this. The lifeblood of the industry is draining away. We have got to take action that might once have been thought unthinkable."

Mr Haddock's herd, one of the biggest in the country, is worth nearly £1 million. He specialises in rearing cattle to the age of ten months and selling them on to other farmers to fatten for slaughter. His customers are now refusing to take any more cattle because they cannot sell their finished animals to abattoirs.

"Demand has collapsed and I am facing a cashflow crisis," he said. "At the end of this month I will have rent to pay on two of my three farms, as well as fuel and wages bills. I have already cancelled an order for a new tractor that I was planning to buy."

Mr Haddock is pressing the Government to slaughter and destroy all animals born before January 1, 1992, in any herd that has had a case of BSE. He believes that would eliminate all cattle that could conceivably have eaten the feed believed to have caused the disease.

"The scrapie-infected feed was banned in 1988, but we all know that some continued in circulation for several years afterwards," he said. "No animal born after 1992 should have eaten any. It would be sensible to remove any older animals from herds with a history of BSE."

On this basis, Mr Haddock reckons he would lose 250 of his breeding stock of 350 suckler cows. "I would expect the Government to compensate me for the loss of the cows, which are worth around £250,000."

The South West is particularly badly hit by the BSE crisis because its rich pastureland makes it especially suitable for dairy farming and cattle rearing. Up to two thirds of dairy farms in the region are thought to have had at least one case of BSE, well above the average.

Ewen Cameron, president of the Country Landowners' Association, whose 50,000 members own half of England and Wales, keeps a 200-cow dairy herd near Ilminister in Somerset. He said: "I earn about £25,000 a year selling some 150 calves born to my dairy cows for beef, an important contribution to overall profits."

Mr Cameron has had 30 cases of BSE on his farm. "It may be that selective slaughtering of the animals most likely to have been exposed to infection may be the only option," he said. "Older dairy cows in particular may have to be taken out of the food chain."

☐ The last major scare involving British beef was a mass outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 1967-68. Whole herds were destroyed as 2,364 outbreaks were detected around Britain. The cost to the country was estimated at £150 million.

Richard Haddock, who farms 1,150 beef cattle in Devon, advocates "previously unthinkable" action

IN BRIEF

Lamb prices likely to leap again at market

Sheep farmers, traditionally the poor cousins of British agriculture, emerged yesterday as one winner in the BSE crisis. Lamb prices are expected to soar further at auction today after rising sharply last Thursday and Friday. By Friday the price of lamb had risen to £1.65 a kilogram (live weight) from £1.46 at the beginning of the week. It is 35p more than at the same time last year. Beef, meanwhile, dropped to 94p from about £1.18 last Monday. The trend is expected to continue this week as more consumers turn away from beef and use lamb as a substitute. Most sheep farmers, however, were frustrated that the extra demand had come at the wrong time of year for them.

Kuwait joins boycott

Kuwait has suspended imports of British beef days after Oman, Qatar and Bahrain took similar action. Abdel Aziz Dekheil, the Kuwaiti Cabinet Secretary, said it had decided "to temporarily suspend its imports of meat from countries affected by the 'mad cow' disease".

46% 'less inclined to eat beef'

Nearly half of people are less inclined to eat beef, according to a survey. The NOP telephone poll of 502 adults, commissioned for last night's *Money Programme* on BBC2, found 46 per cent "less inclined" to eat beef, while 39 per cent would still eat beef.

Researcher honoured

The international Wolf Foundation in Jerusalem awarded its annual prize of $100,000 (£65,000) to Professor Stanley B. Prusiner, a medical researcher from the University of California at San Francisco, who discovered the pathogens that cause "mad cow" disease.

Meat crisis is good news for cats and dogs

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

CONSUMERS

SHOPPERS were buying cut-price beef for their pet dogs and cats yesterday as the impact of the BSE scare began to show in shop and supermarkets. Unsold beef cuts, mince and hamburgers were piled high on the shelves as consumers turned against the beef industry.

One woman, a pensioner from Manchester shopping at her local Sainsbury, bought reduced steak: "I wouldn't normally be able to afford this for myself, let alone for my dog and cat but they might as well benefit from it," she said.

Another man at a central London supermarket picked up steak reduced by £1 and said: "It's for the dog. I wouldn't let my daughter touch it." Other shoppers, however, unmoved by the BSE crisis, were stockpiling cheap beef for their freezers.

Some independent stores reported beef sales down by up to a half but a surge in demand for lamb, pork, chicken and fish. Lamb mince was being offered instead of traditional beef mince as a substitute for dishes such as spaghetti bolognese.

Market traders were considering laying off staff paid to cut and prepare the beef. Bruce Callard, of Kirkgate Market, Leeds, said: "Sales of beef have slumped dramatically but sales of pork, lamb and chicken are going berserk. Beef was a third of our sales but I doubt very much if we can pick it all up by selling other meat. "If sales continue to fall like this we'll seriously have to think about staff cuts. Pork, lamb and chicken don't take anywhere near as much time to prepare."

Leading supermarket chains admitted they had suffered a significant drop in beef sales but said they had adjusted their orders as soon as the scare broke.

David Sawday, from Tesco, said: "The sales decrease has affected both fresh and frozen beef but we haven't noticed a particular surge in vegetarian products. People appear to have simply opted for another meat instead." Sainsbury said that although beef sales were down it would be impossible to say by how much until the end of the week.

At the Asda in the Gateshead MetroCentre chicken sold out on Saturday while beef sales were down by a quarter on the previous week.

The Isle of Wight zoo appealed for unwanted beef to feed its 14 tigers.

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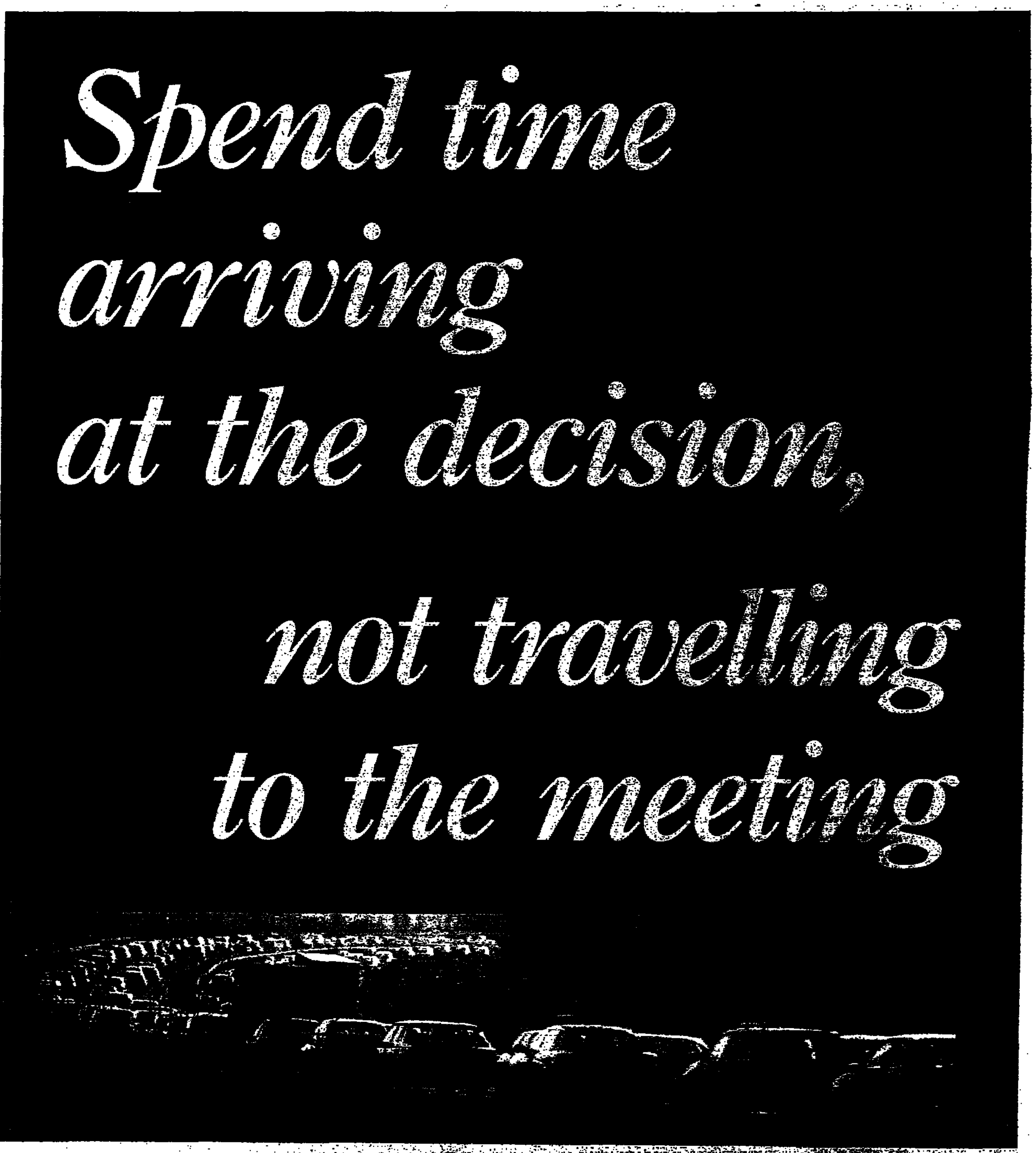

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Dole burnishes dull image with Death Row tour

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

INCREDIBLY for a candidate seeking to shed a dour image, Mr Dole chose to visit California's Death Row at the weekend, staring at condemned men and hearing how they die by lethal injection.

With his wife, Elizabeth, by his side and San Quentin prison as his backdrop, Mr Dole then gave a press conference in which he pledged to curtail Death Row appeals for convicted murderers, accelerate executions and treat juveniles who commit violent crimes as adults.

"We have become hostages to the random, vicious acts of nameless, faceless strangers," he declared. He complained that more San Quentin inmates died of old age than lethal injection and demanded: "Is this America? Do we believe in justice?"

Mr Dole campaigned in California at the weekend, ostensibly to beat Pat Buchanan in tomorrow's Republican primary, but in reality to open his election offensive against President Clinton.

He went to the Mexican border to demand still tougher measures against illegal immigration, including an end to free public schooling for the immigrants' children. He went to the Northrop Grumman aircraft plant near Los Angeles to demand a doubling of America's B2 Stealth bomber fleet at a cost of $30 billion (£19 billion).

At San Quentin, Mr Dole pledged to speed up executions, but reports of his visit focused more on his grim tour of the prison where 424 men are on Death Row. *The Washington Post* dubbed it "Dole's dour tour".

Mr Dole's message was further undermined by Friday's remarkable vote in the House of Representatives to repeal a two-year-old ban on semi-automatic assault guns. The Republicans were widely accused of rewarding the National Rifle Association for the $5.3 million it poured into their 1994 congressional campaigns. Angry protesters demonstrated outside San Quentin as Mr Dole gave his press conference, and he was clearly embarrassed by his House colleagues' action.

In stark contrast to Mr Dole's harsh themes, Mr Clinton went to Ohio — another crucial battleground this November — to urge more corporate responsibility towards employees at a time of great economic anxiety.

He acknowledged that the first duty of businesses was to compete and make profits, but suggested it was in their own best interests to offer better benefits, improved training and safer working conditions. He announced a White House conference next month to highlight examples of "corporate citizenship".

☐ **Poll blow:** A *Washington Post* poll showed 52 per cent of Americans believed that Hillary Clinton had lied about her role in the Whitewater affair, and that 49 per cent believed she had broken the law.

No other First Lady has ever inspired such a damning verdict, and Mrs Clinton's woes were further compounded by an announcement that Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, was expanding his investigation to determine whether Administration officials had lied about the controversial 1993 sacking of the seven-man White House travel office.

Mrs Clinton, in sworn testimony, has denied ordering the dismissals. David Watkins, a former presidential aide, has supported that contention in evidence to investigators. But in a recently discovered White House memorandum, Mr Watkins wrote that he had been "as protective and vague as possible" but had dismissed the travel office at Mrs Clinton's "insistence" because he knew there would be "hell to pay" if he ignored her wishes.

'Shock jock' makes President squirm

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

C-SPAN, arguably the dullest television channel in the world, as it covers nothing but politics, looked set to smash its viewing records last night by airing the ultimate in tasteless after-dinner speeches despite vigorous protests from the White House.

Millions were expected to tune in to watch a speech that Don Imus, an outrageous radio talk show host, delivered to the prestigious annual Radio and Television Correspondents' Association dinner last week and that has since become the talk of Washington. The New York "shock jock" cracked jokes about President Clinton's extramarital affairs and the First Lady's financial transgressions as the First Couple squirmed and grimaced just a few feet away on the head table and the audience of 3,000 listened in shocked silence.

It was "as if he was spraying abuse like a terrorist with an Uzi", *The Washington Post* reported beneath a picture of Mr Clinton covering his face with his hand. Even Newt Gingrich's spokesman called the jokes "starkly inappropriate".

The association swiftly sent the Clintons a formal and abject apology. Prominent American journalists declared they would never again appear on the Imus show. Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, sought in vain to dissuade C-Span from broadcasting a speech he euphemistically described as unsuitable for children and revealed that he had been about to lead a walk-out when "mercifully it came to an end".

Mr Imus was unapologetic. "I wanted to have a joke about how the President could combat charges of womanising by becoming a Mormon. And if we had four or five First Ladies, America was bound to like one of them."

Hillary Clinton, centre right, and Sheryl Crow, the Grammy Award winning singer, with kitchen staff at the American military base in Baumholder, Germany. The First Lady was on the opening day of an eight-day European goodwill tour, carrying mail, films and sweets for American troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "We are very grateful for the sacrifice that every one of you have made," she told about 200 family members and friends of US personnel stationed in Bosnia. Accompanied by her daughter, Chelsea, Mrs Clinton flew seven hours overnight, arriving at Baumholder in time for church services. She was greeted by about 300 soldiers and military families at Ramstein Air Base. Today Mrs Clinton flies to Tuzla, the headquarters of American troops serving in the Nato-led implementation force in Bosnia. Later, she will head for a three-day stay in Turkey, including a speech at the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul to promote the idea of secular governments in religious countries. She will be in Athens on Friday. *(AP)*

Cooks' tour for the First Lady

Voice of the cyber cabbie

New York: Taxi drivers here, among the most slovenly in the world, have been ordered to install talking computers in their cabs (Quentin Letts writes). The decision is the latest attempt by the city fathers to improve the standard of service from Manhattan's largely immigrant yellow cab drivers.

From mid-May, a metallic, computer-generated voice will tell alighting passengers: "Excuse me, please remember to take your property and don't forget to ask for a receipt." At present the most a passenger can normally expect at the end of a high-velocity ride is a grunt from the pilot, followed by the sideways glance of an ill-shaven face to check that the door is shut before the taxi is gunned back into the traffic.

Taxi owners who fail to install the devices will be liable to fines.

State polls boost Kohl coalition

FROM PETER BILD IN BONN

THE centre-right coalition of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, received a surprise boost yesterday after winning the Baden-Württemberg election, preliminary exit polls showed.

Faced with soaring unemployment, German voters went to the polls in three states to deliver a first verdict on Herr Kohl's Government since re-electing him as Chancellor more than a year ago.

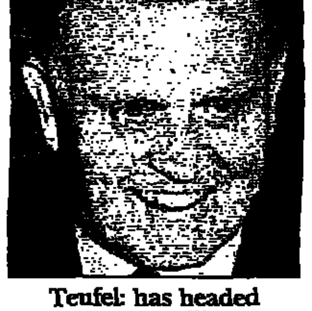
The Social Democrats (SDP) — the main opposition to Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) in Bonn — lost ground in the southwestern state, despite their campaign against the European Union's proposed single currency, an issue which they had hoped would lead to important gains. Early projections showed slight gains in the other two states — Schleswig-Holstein in the north and Rhineland-Palatinate also in the southwest.

The performance of the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) — teetering on the edge of extinction in all three regional parliaments — could prove crucial for Herr Kohl. A poor result risked unseating him from the Chancellery in Bonn by unravelling the internal cohesion of his FDP coalition partner. Latest opinion polls in all three states showed the FDP barely clearing the 5 per cent hurdle needed to ensure seats in the three states.

In many constituencies the Green Alliance, which has declared itself as a coalition partner of the SDP, outpolled the FDP by 2-1 or more. The liberalsa have been in Government in Bonn for all but two of the last 47 years.

The Government's apparent immobility as the economy has edged towards recession was the key issue for most voters. But in Baden Württemberg, where the right-wing Republicans swept into parliament with a startling 10.9 per cent five years ago, the SDP dismayed many supporters by launching an outright bid for the Right's vote. They targeted resentment at the influx of "resettled Germans" and called for a delay in European currency union, appealing to Germans fearful of losing their precious mark.

A rough campaign raised accusations that the traditionally internationalist SDP has been pandering to narrow nationalism and latent racism. With 4.5 million Germans jobless, the SDP demanded a curb on immigration of the *Aussiedler*, former Soviet citizens of Germanic origin guaranteed citizenship. The talk in bars has been of the threat to jobs from these immigrants, many from Kazakhstan who speak no German. Dieter Spöri, the SDP leader in Baden-Württemberg, played on these fears.



Teufel: has headed an uneasy alliance

For the past five years Herr Spori and Erwin Teufel, the CDU premier of Baden-Württemberg, have governed in an uneasy "grand coalition" to keep the Republicans out of office. A poor result for both the FDP and the Republicans could open the way either for a Red-Green coalition or a solely CDU government in the state.

In neighbouring Rhineland-Palatinate, where the Chancellor cast his vote and the CDU ruled alone until five years ago, his party was hoping to close a six percentage point gap against the SDP to oust Germany's only SPD-FDP coalition.

In Schleswig-Holstein, Heidi Simonis, the SDP premier, was expected to maintain her party's lead over the CDU.

Mandela 'assaulted by Winnie'

Johannesburg: Controversy surrounding the Mandela divorce refuses to die down, with fresh accusations being levelled against Winnie Mandela that she physically attacked her former husband several times shortly before he left her (Inigo Gilmore writes).

City Press said the assaults were the "more serious reasons" for him leaving home in 1992 that President Mandela was loathe to present during last week's divorce hearing. Quoting close friends of the President, the newspaper claimed Mrs Mandela attacked her estranged husband more than once and on one occasion a bodyguard stepped in and drew his firearm.

South African newspapers have been speculating on the President's romantic future with Dr Mamphele Ramaphele, the wife of the late Steve Biko, and Graca Machel, widow of the Mozambican president, named as possible future first ladies.

Pity Winnie, page 19

Nuclear test ban in Pacific

London: Britain, France and America will today sign a treaty protocol making the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone, ensuring that France will never again be able to test nuclear weapons on Mururoa Atoll (Michael Binyon writes).

They will sign three protocols to the 1985 Treaty of Rarotonga, saying this "underlines our will to achieve the definitive end of nuclear tests throughout the world". They said the signing, in Suva, the Fijian capital, would give a further boost to the negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Jordanian baby named Rabin

Jerusalem: A Jordanian admirer of Yitzhak Rabin, the late Israeli Prime Minister, has won a legal battle to name his newborn son after him (Christopher Walker writes). Rajai Abdul-Kader, a farm worker in Jordan, lost his job after giving the name to his son. But he is undeterred. "I will name my next baby boy after Shimon Peres," he said.

Belorussians attack merger

Minsk: Up to 30,000 Belorussians marched through the city in protest at President Lukashenko's plans to merge with Russia. They besieged state television offices to demand airtime. Police managed to disperse the rally; riot police later beat up some protesters. *(Reuter)*

US woman joins crew of Mir

Houston: Shannon Lucid, the first American woman to live in the Russian space station, Mir, floated to her new home from the shuttle Atlantis, and said: "I'm happy to be here." She will stay five months. *(AP)*.

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PRUDENTIAL

Peking seeks to save face as Lee wins Taiwan vote

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA sought to hide its disappointment yesterday that its military exercises and belligerent tone had failed to prevent Lee Teng-hui from being elected with a convincing 54 per cent of the vote in the first-ever presidential elections in Taiwan.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry was restrained in its reaction to Mr Lee's weekend triumph. "I want to stress that there is only one China in the world," said Shen Guofang, its spokesman. "Whatever the method for selecting the leaders of Taiwan might be, it cannot change the fact that Taiwan is part of Chinese territory."

The mild rebuke was in sharp contrast to Peking's vitriolic denunciation in the weeks before the election when it branded Mr Lee as a dictator who would end up in the "dustbin of history".

Mr Shen also said that it was up to the Chinese military to decide whether to continue with the threatening missile tests and war games in the Taiwan Strait. He added that peaceful reunification was still China's basic aim, but reiterated the two conditions under which Peking would resort to force: if Taiwan declared independence or if a foreign power intervened in the crisis.

Diplomats in Peking said that China's hawkish military leaders would now have to consider whether a new round of war games would be worth the considerable drain on the nation's finances, given that the presence of two American naval battlegroups in the area virtually neutralises any military action which Peking may contemplate against Taiwan.

Observers noted that Mr Shen's comment on the future of the war games placed the onus on the military. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has had its say, and whatever the generals decide on is up to them.

Diplomats in the Chinese capital are now waiting to see how President Lee will react: whether he will use his mandate to continue pushing for United Nations' recognition — an unrealisitc scenario — or make a gesture to Peking to ease, rather than escalate, the hostile relations.

To ease tensions, Mr Lee must be prepared to start a dialogue on issues such as opening direct air, sea and mail links with the Communist mainland, as stated by Mr Shen in an interview with the Peking-controlled *Wei Wei Po* newspaper, published in Hong Kong. Such talks would be riddled with difficulties, not least over the use of national flags and aircraft.

Peking, in its first official response to the election results, did not repeat its customary denunciation of President Lee. The official Xinhua news agency, in a commentary that tried to justify the military pressure, said that the fight against Taipei's independence movement had dealt a serious blow to Taiwanese separatism.

The results showed that Peng Ming-min, Taiwan's pro-independence candidate, who came second, secured only 21 per cent of the vote, while two candidates who opposed independence received 15 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

In general elections in 1993, the pro-independence vote was 41 per cent. One analyst said: "Peking, thus, can convince itself that it did not lose too much face."

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, who arrived in Peking yesterday, said that China's relations with Taiwan were "an internal affair". He refused to comment on the elections, saying that the purpose of his visit was to reinforce relations between China, which is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and the world body.

RESULTS

Lee Teng-hui	54%
Peng Ming-min (pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party)	21%
Lin Yang-kang (independent)	15%
Chen Li-an (Buddhist who wants friendly ties with China)	10%
Turnout	76%

President Lee Teng-hui celebrates at a victory party in Taipei

Taipei victors talk of treaty with mainland

BY DAVID WATTS IN TAIPEI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TAIWAN and China moved yesterday to defuse their worst crisis in decades as the people of the island rejoiced in making history by electing its first President.

Lien Chan, the Taiwanese Prime Minister, said Taipei was seriously considering signing a peace treaty with Peking. He said the Government wanted to start negotiations immediately to pave the way for a bilateral summit. China also adopted a conciliatory tone, proposing a summit between its Communist leaders and their Taiwanese rivals.

Mr Lien told reporters: "As far as a peace agreement is concerned . . . we are interested in thinking seriously about it and a lot of preparations need to be done for that."

As Taiwanese woke up with a heady feeling yesterday, one senior politician summed up the island population's achievement in annointing Lee Teng-hui as the first directly elected leader in 5,000 years of Chinese history: "Tremendously meaningful to all Chinese everywhere in the world . . . an epoch-making event that will have far-reaching consequences on the development of democracy in our country."

An exultant Mr Lee said it was "an immense political achievement for the Republic of China which deserves to win international approval and support".

But a leading official of his ruling Kuomintang Nationalist Government was probably closer to the mark when he said President Jiang Zemin of China deserved a medal for his contribution. "He is a super campaign aid," he said.

There is no doubt that Peking's campaign of intimidation helped to bolster President Lee's vote, achieving precisely the opposite of what the Communist mainland intended. But Mr Lee also won support beacuse of an early campaign statement in which he promised to open talks with the mainland once polling was over.

The long-term prospect now seems likely to be a commencement of talks, followed by more war games and more talks as the mainland tries to wear down Taiwanese resolve. "They'll try to force us to talk, but on their terms," a defence source said. "Their intelligence is excellent and they'll follow [Chinese military strategist] Sun Tzu's classic dictum that it is better to win the war without firing a shot."

Rumours are rife in Taipei that the Nationalists already have a delegation of party officials in Peking preparing the ground for the next round of cross-strait talks on greater direct contacts.

After the vote, Peking reserved its strongest criticism for Washington, saying that the United States' naval battlegroups which had been deployed close to the Taiwan Strait signalled to Taipei that Washington supported pro-independence activities on the island. "The US Government has hurt the feelings of the Chinese people," the Foreign Ministry in Peking said.

Chinese missile: could precipitate war with US

US ships 'exposed to missile attacks'

BY DAVID WATTS

THE United States Navy forces off Taiwan are as vulnerable as were the *Repulse* and the *Prince of Wales* when they were sunk by Japanese Imperial Navy bombers at the beginning of the Pacific War, according to a defence adviser to Taipei.

"It's 1941 all over again. The American deployment is too weak to support Taiwan in case of real need and sufficently strong to be dangerous because its presence could invite unforeseen consequences," the adviser said.

"The Royal Navy thought the *Repulse* and the *Prince of Wales* were invulnerable," said the adviser. "The Admiralty didn't understand that they were vulnerable to air attack, they had always thought in terms of surface opposition. Today the United States doesn't understand that their ships could be destroyed by Chinese missiles. It would only take one missile and the *Nimitz* or the *Independence* [aircraft carriers] is finished and there would be war between China and the United States."

American assessments of China's capabilities of attacking Taiwan so far have focused on the use of Chinese land-based army and air forces and the need to deploy large numbers of troops rapidly. Far more likely, in the opinion of Taiwanese military sources, would be the use of the M9 missile, a development of the Russian Scud.

Taiwan does not have the phased-array radar necessary to provide warning of such an attack. Nor did the US see fit to allow Taiwan to buy advanced versions of the Patriot missile when Taipai produced its annual military shopping list last week. The Patriot is one of the few missile systems that would give the Taiwanese a sporting chance in such a conflict.

Fortress Quemoy votes for dialogue

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN LITTLE QUEMOY

WITH China only 5,000 yards away, almost all the 3,054 voters on this tiny island turned out at the weekend to choose the first democratically elected Chinese president despite Peking's attempts to intimidate the electorate.

Little Quemoy is a half hour's motor-launch trip from Quemoy, Taiwan's offshore island fortress. From this tiny place it is easy to see the Fujian coast. The island's small, well-dug-in garrison would be rapidly overrun if Communist China decided to invade.

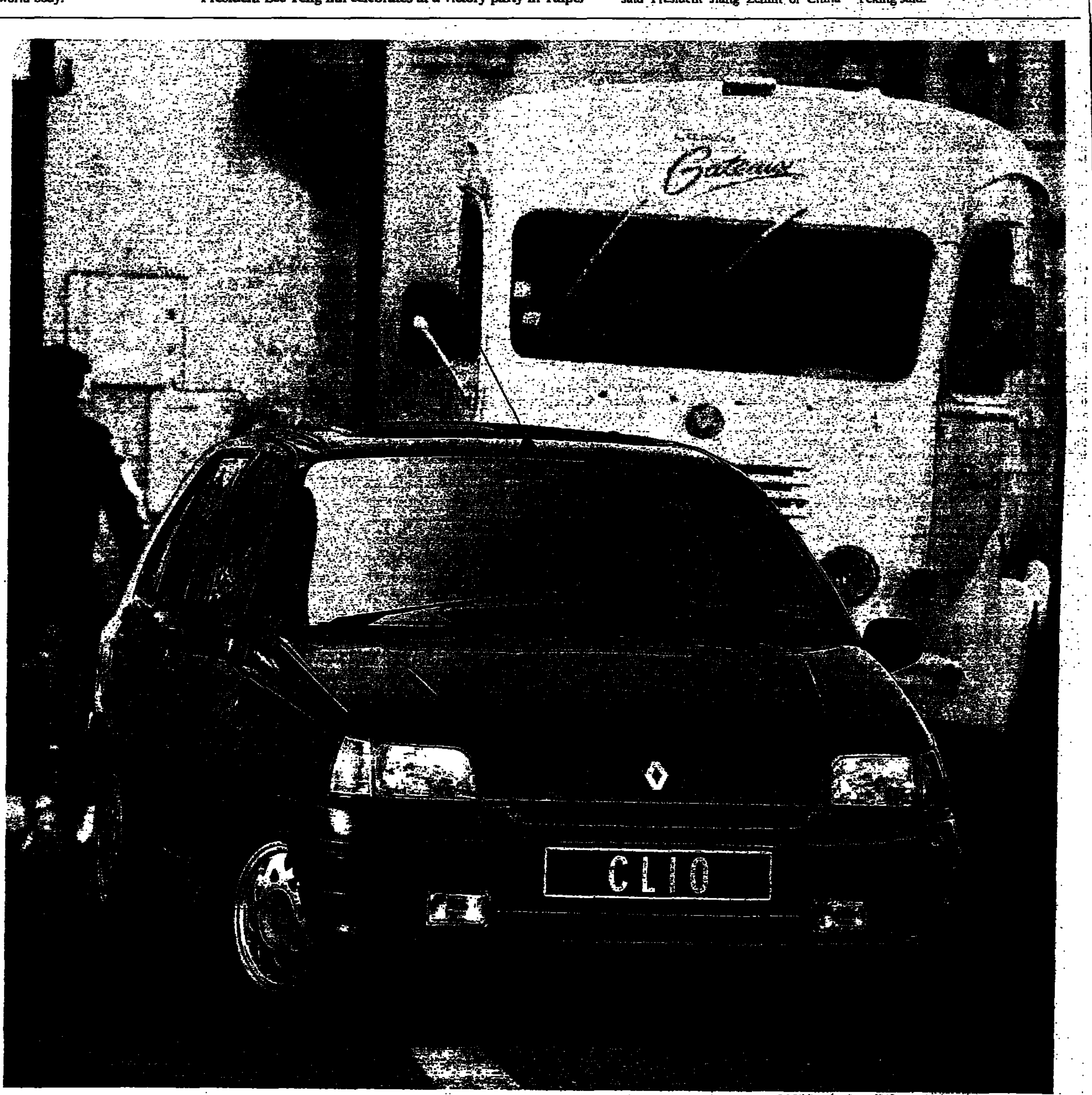
It is so close to the port of Xiamen, or Amoy, that Chen Da-bing, who was born here, can call Xiamen on his portable phone to speak to his aunts, from whom his family has been separated for more than 40 years. "My father came here to do a little business, the military crisis began, and he's never been able to go back," said Mr Chen, who was about to attend his niece's wedding to which Chens from as far away as Singapore were present.

Little Quemoy, its houses featuring traditional sway-roofs with dragons at the corners and red Chinese New Year streamers invoking good fortune still fluttering from every wooden door, displays an even more traditionally southern Chinese face than Quemoy. Its villagers are probably the only people under Taiwanese rule who do not immediately tell a visitor at great length what a historic election this is.

But they came dressed in their best to the little polling station where a life-sized cardboard water buffalo, symbol of prosperity and patience, looked down from the wall.

Unlike the result on Taiwan island, where Lee Teng-hui won well over half the total vote, in Little Quemoy, and on Quemoy, Mr Lee received only a simple majority. Most voters here preferred two other candidates, Chen Li-an and Lin Yang-kang, who called for some form of reconciliation with Communist China — when its political system changes. Their message went unheeded in Taiwan where people are more fearful of Peking, unlike Little Quemoy and Quemoy, where the islanders still feel part of China.

Zhang Sui-zhen, the county chief for Quemoy with its 30,000 voters, said: "On Quemoy, we're not afraid of the Communists, like those people in Taipei who ran abroad when the missiles were fired."



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هكذا من الأصل

A stall holder, Jean-Claude Sennepin, cuts a piece of Dutch cheese yesterday at a Paris market beneath a sign giving the price, for a two-week trial run of the proposed European single currency, in francs and euros

Spin doctors prescribe dose of cross-Channel passion

THIS WEEK IN EUROPE

Stand by for another dose of the "John and Jacques" love affair from the spin doctors of Downing Street. John Major flies to Turin this week to eat an agreeable meal or two with his fellow European Union leaders and we will hear again what a *merveilleux* rapport the Prime Minister has with President Chirac.

Mr Major's EU friendships are fickle affairs. Only a few years ago, he was being squashed in bear hugs by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and we were hearing about how *wunderbar* was the warmth between Helmut and John. That was in the days when Mr Major wanted to be at the heart of Europe. Herr Kohl eventually decided that his friend John could not even find Europe's heart on the map, much less make his way there.

Then along came the Gaullist M Chirac, talking common sense, national sovereignty and passable English. The French President is coming to London in May and his honeyed phrases will trigger an avalanche of wild predictions that the new Anglo-French alliance is about to undermine the Franco-German relationship and generally upset the balance of power inside the EU. There will be some tactical alliances between Britain and France, but do not be fooled: this partnership is not going beyond the flirting stage, and Mr Major knows it.

The Prime Minister is well aware of M Chirac's real intentions because the President had the courtesy to come and tell him what they were. A few weeks before he was elected last year, M Chirac dropped in to No 10. France, he explained, has to stay closer to Germany than to any other EU state. We will be moving closer to you, he told Mr Major, but that will be in order to scare the Germans and to extract bigger concessions from them in the EU. The French are in a gigantic muddle about how to make Europe work as well for them in the 21st century as it has during the last 40 years. Their Prime Minister makes speeches lauding the superior democratic credentials of the sovereign nation state while the Foreign Minister describes himself as a federalist. Nobody in the French media makes prominent mention of the fact that the president of the Bundesbank has underlined that membership of a single currency means "a permanent political union at the core level of national sovereignty".

Any idea of resolving these contradictions has fallen off the national agenda. The French political class is on an upswing. The strikes and snowbound misery of December are just a memory, the franc is strong and — oh, delicious irony — the Germans are having a little local difficulty meeting the single currency qualifications.

Ancient Anglo-French quarrels lurk beneath the surface. French ministers are furiously determined to rebuild the exchange-rate mechanism so that British, Spanish and Italian businesses can reap no more advantages from their devaluations against the franc. This could cause sparks when finance ministers meet in Verona next month.

It is not hard to predict how this Panglossian optimism might unravel. Philippe Seguin, the man who almost derailed Maastricht in France, is pressing M Chirac to keep his promises to create new jobs. Across the Rhine, the head of the Bundesbank says that the single currency will not solve the unemployment crisis. France's stubbornly massive public expenditure may not shrink fast enough, forcing a postponement of monetary union.

Europe remains popular, but is it popular enough for Maastricht II? It was four years ago that the Maastricht treaty squeaked through a referendum.

Yet the French put such problems out of sight and out of mind. Press almost any French official or pundit about the wisdom of the single currency and they shrug and say: "There's no way back from where we are." Which was more or less M Chirac's warning to Mr Major last year.

GEORGE BROCK

Tricky birth expected for 'Son of Maastricht'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

AFTER months of diplomatic foreplay, the leaders of the 15 nations of the European Union gather in Turin on Friday for the grand opening of a treaty negotiation that none of them really wants.

With unemployment ravaging the continent and a public belief that alien forces are menacing the comforts of the European existence, the time hardly seems right for a return to the forlorn fields of Maastricht.

However, the task of the inter-governmental conference, scheduled in the 1991 treaty, is to spend more than a year fixing whatever needs repair in the ramshackle compromise signed at Maastricht and sprucing it up for a much-enlarged Union early in the next century. Rarely since Jean Monnet dreamt up his postwar scheme for Franco-German rapprochement has there been so little stomach for another bold leap and so much confusion over the purpose of the European exercise.

Strange to anyone unused to the rituals of Europe's club is the absence from the agenda of two topics that members find most ominous. Off limits will be economic and monetary union, due for launch in 1999, as well as the painful reform of the agricultural and regional programmes that are vital before the EU can absorb up to ten new members from Central and Eastern Europe. Instead, the conference will focus on tuning up the mechanics of decision-making and tinker with the roles of the Commission and parliament.

In the face of widespread qualms, the best that Euro-enthusiasts hope from the new "Treaty of Amsterdam", expected in June next year, is the groundwork for a "flexible" Union. This would bypass Britain and allow the more eager and able states to cluster around Germany at the heart of what should eventually be a diverse new assembly of nations. With a bit of luck, the majority hope, Britain can be prevailed upon to allow the Union to be equipped with stronger machinery for controlling crime and frontiers, for a more common foreign policy and defence.

The mood is hardly auspicious as governments launch their weekly bargaining sessions, most of them to be held in Brussels. As "Son of Maastricht" has loomed closer and member states have proclaimed competing visions, the public has taken an ever dimmer view of the arcane confection of 1991.

While a big slice of people in Europe supports deeper union, Maastricht's grim image is ensuring that governments are entering the conference hard on the defensive. In unison, the politicians are promising to bring Europe back to the citizen with calls for an "employment chapter" to be written into the new treaty. Behind that point bubbles the discord over the ultimate goal of the Union. Germany and France, along with the Benelux trio, stick to the classic doctrine that the Union is an ultimately political enterprise for ensuring peace and protection from "globalisation".

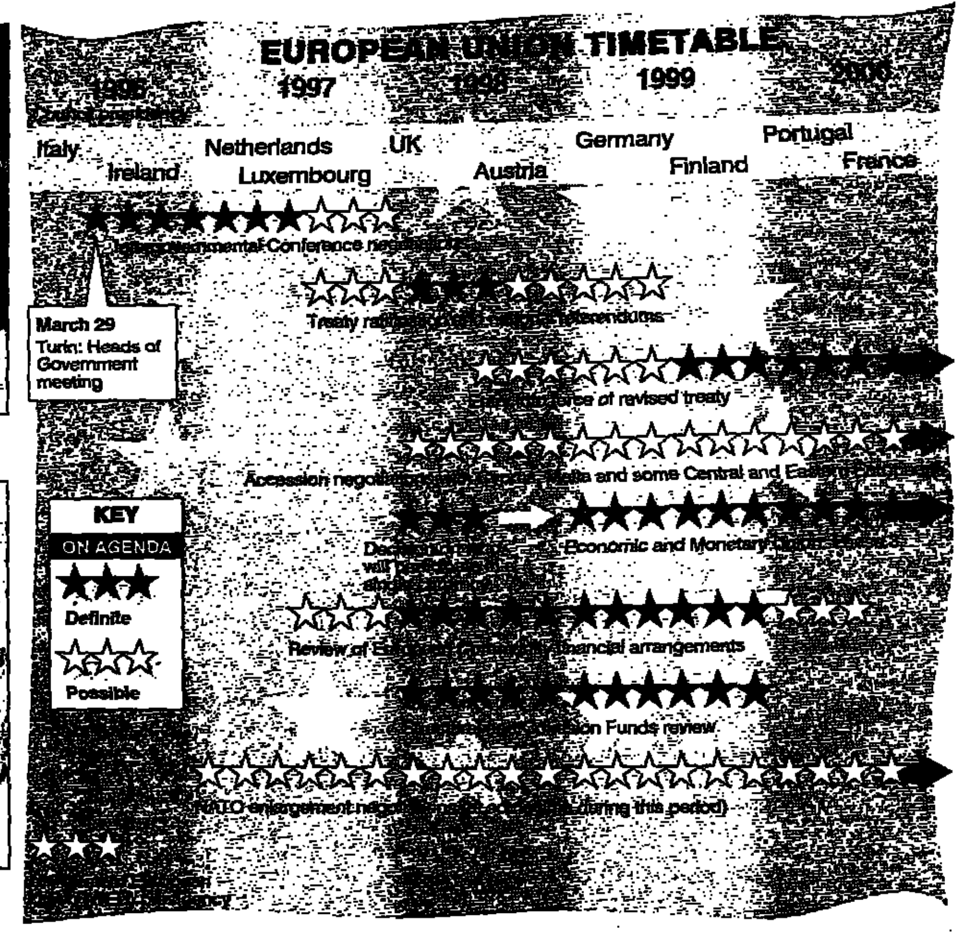
On the other side, Britain and the Nordic states see it more as a mutually beneficial association of nation states which should quickly embrace the whole continent. Britain, to the despair of many, including some of its own diplomats, has committed itself to a minimal-menu conference, ruling out any concessions before negotiation even opens. The other Europeans assume that Tony Blair will succeed John Major before the endgame but few expect a New Labour government to be much more flexible on key issues such as curbing the national veto and pooling more sovereignty. Jacques Santer, the emollient Commission President, thinks Britain will yield a little from Mr Major's hard line but must be given a helping hand.

At the other extreme, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, sees the Maastricht review, along with monetary union, as a last chance for Europe to avert upheaval and even war in the next century. Somewhere in the middle, the France of President Chirac is proclaiming renewed attachment to the nation state while uttering ambitions for closer partnership that are a far cry from the grand European design of François Mitterrand. The new imbalance between France and Germany, the old powerhouse of the Community, offers the most telling glimpse of the tensions in the EU.

TURIN SUMMIT

Monnet: pioneered the ideal of united Europe

Agnelli: exposed Turin prostitution scandal



Fiat dynasty takes the driving seat

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

TURIN, the venue for this week's European Union summit, is the birthplace of Italian unity. It is the Piedmont capital in which Cavour proclaimed the unified Italian state in 1861.

The polished diplomats of the Italian Foreign Ministry, who have kept the European Union agenda on target despite political chaos at home, would like Turin in 1996 to mark a further stage in the unification of Europe under the current Italian presidency.

However modern Turin is Fiatville, the city of the Italian car industry. It is a place where the acronym Fiat (Fabbrica Italiana di Automobili Torino) means rather more than IGC (intergovernmental conference). Even the summit venue, the Lingotto, is an imaginative redevelopment of the original 1917 Fiat factory by the great Italian architect, Renzo Piano. Up on the roof, above a complex of restaurants and high-tech auditoriums, is the famous Fiat test track, much praised by Le Corbusier and still admired by students of design as a "superb piece of engineering".

The choice of Turin and the Lingotto to launch the IGC is testimony to the power of a single family: the Agnellis. Susanna Agnelli, the Italian Foreign Minister, is the sister of Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat magnate and the uncrowned "King of Italy". The Agnellis own not only Fiat but also the food and drink giants Cinzano, the football team Juventus and the newspaper *La Stampa*.

The city is run by Valentino Castellani, a directly elected left-wing mayor. However, Signor Castellani's form of socialism is far removed from the radicalism of the Italian labour movement formed during industrial riots at Fiat, led by Antonio Gramsci, the founder of Italian communism. It is even further removed from the twisted Marxism of the terrorist Red Brigades, which were also spawned — though rather later — on Fiat's factory floor.

Perhaps in the knowledge that control of immigration is also high on the EU agenda at Turin, Signora Agnelli has worked with Signor Castellani to expose a scandal involving senior Italian diplomats in Lagos who allegedly took bribes of up to $3,000 (£1,900) a time to give Nigerian prostitutes visas. One diplomat is under arrest, as is the Nigerian "madam" in Turin, Florence Enahimian, who allegedly controlled thousands of prostitutes.

The spurious reasons given by the women for wanting to visit Italy range from "visiting the Pope" to "taking part in basketball matches".

The xenophobic Northern League, which commands 10 per cent of the vote in Piedmont, is making immigration an election issue. The Italian Government hopes that joint EU action on immigration will defuse this.

Yeltsin bid to calm nuclear concerns

FROM LEYLA LINTON IN OSLO

PRESIDENT YELTSIN will seek to allay Norwegian fears about Russian nuclear waste in the Kola Peninsula 30 miles from their shared border as he begins his first state visit to Norway today.

Bjorn Tore Godal, the Norwegian Foreign Minister, said: "It is the graveyard of the Cold War. There are fuels and materials which are not dealt with properly." Norway is also expected to raise the detention of a worker for an Olso-based environmental group partly funded by the Norwegian Government. Alexander Nikitin, a former Russian naval officer who carried out research on radioactive contamination in Murmansk for Bellona, was arrested in St Petersburg last month. He is charged with treason, a capital offence.

Other issues to be discussed include the Nordic-Russian Barents Council, which formalises co-operation between Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland and helps Russia in cleaning up its nuclear waste.

Mr Yeltsin will be keen to convince Norway that Russia, which will host a nuclear security summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations next month, is making environmental progress. He may raise Nato's Battle Griffin 96 manoeuvres and other recent Western exercises in northern Norw which have coincided w increasing worries in Mosc about Nato expansion.

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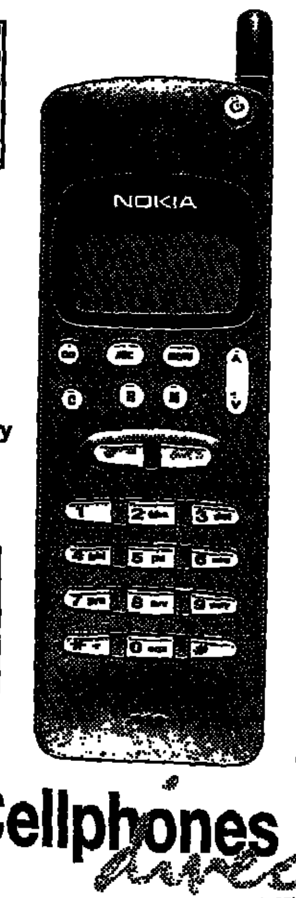

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Australia braced for six-month trial over serial killings

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A MAN alleged to be Australia's worst serial killer will go on trial today accused of murdering seven backpackers, including two young Britons.

During his alleged rampage, police said they believed Ivan Milat, 51, had hunted some of his victims like animals, giving them a head start before stalking them through the New South Wales bush.

The trial will last at least six months and hundreds of witnesses will be called to give evidence. Mr Milat, a road worker, was arrested at his home in Sydney in May 1994.

The trial promises to be one of the longest and most expensive in Australian judicial history.

Mr Milat is charged with the killing of an Australian couple, three Germans and two British women, Joanne Walters and Caroline Clarke, both 22.

It was the disappearance of the young British women four years ago that led to the grim discovery of the bodies of all seven backpackers in remote bushland in the New South Wales Southern Highlands.

Ms Walters, from Maesteg, Mid-Glamorgan, and Ms Clarke, from Slaley, Northumberland, were on a working holiday. In April 1992, while hitch-hiking from Sydney to Melbourne, they vanished. Concerned for their safety, their families flew to Australia as the police mounted a nationwide search. Six months later their remains were found in the Belanglo State Forest, about 60 miles south of Sydney. Joanne had been repeatedly stabbed and Caroline stabbed and shot ten times in the head and upper body.

The way the bodies had been left suggested they might have been sexually assaulted.

Over the next 14 months, five more bodies were discovered in the dense undergrowth. Two Australians, Deborah Everist and James Gibson, both 19, had been missing since December 1989.

Simone Schmidl, a 21-year-old German backpacker, had disappeared in 1991. Fellow Germans Anja Habschied and Gabor Neugebauer, also in their early twenties, had last been seen alive in 1992.

All had died from either knife or shotgun wounds and each had disappeared while hitch-hiking from Sydney to Melbourne.

Police launched one of the biggest manhunts in Australian history. Hundreds of people were interviewed, as detectives investigated thousands of different leads.

Their inquiries eventually led them to a suburban bungalow on the outskirts of Sydney, where Ivan Robert Marko Milat, a road repairer, was arrested and subsequently charged with the murder of all seven backpackers.

He was also accused of the attempted murder of another British tourist, armed robbery and other gun offences. Inside Mr Milat's home, and houses belonging to some of his relatives, police allegedly found gun parts, ammunition and knives, as well as camping equipment said to have belonged to some of the murdered backpackers.

Mr Milat, the son of a Croat, was a non-smoking teetotaller, whose luxuries in life were a four-wheel-drive vehicle and a Harley Davidson motorcyle. He also allegedly enjoyed shooting and hunting.

His trial, which was delayed because of a dispute over legal aid allowances, is expected to hear evidence from about 200 witnesses. Foreign witnesses are likely to include Joanne and Caroline's parents.

The New South Wales Government is offering financial assistance to relatives of the victims who wish to attend the trial. They will also be given free accommodation.

A column of Bosnian Serb prisoners of war, watched by Swedish members of Nato's implementation force, walk to freedom and waiting relatives. The 109 captives were released by the Bosnian Government just before a midnight deadline on Saturday. Earlier, delays in freeing the prisoners brought threats that

Serb captives walk to freedom

further stalling by the formerly warring parties in Bosnia would be met by sharp international sanctions. In a statement issued yesterday, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker, the commander of Nato ground forces in Bosnia, said he welcomed the release but could not consider it a "full compliance" until all prisoners were freed. The men released on Saturday night were taken 30 miles from their Tuzla jail to a checkpoint near Gracanica, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Almost all the group were captured in the dying weeks of the war last autumn. At the Gracanica bridge, Laurent Fellay, a Red Cross representative, said he expected further prisoner releases in the coming hours and days, but declined to give any details. (*AP*)

Iraqi poll of vetted candidates 'a farce'

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

OPPONENTS of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq dismissed yesterday's parliamentary elections, the first held in his country since 1989, as a farce.

"It is impossible to hold a free and fair election in a climate of fear, oppression and censorship," said Ahmad Chalabi, chairman of the London-based group, the Iraqi National Congress. "In Iraq there is no freedom of speech, no political parties, no right of assembly, no free press and no independent judiciary."

All 689 candidates, including "independents" running for the 220 seats in the rubber-stamp National Assembly, had to be approved by a government screening committee, and all had to be declared supporters of the 1968 coup which brought the Iraqi dictator's wing of the Baath party to power.

The poll has come as Iraq attempts to work out a deal with the United Nations to sell limited amounts of oil in order to buy food and medicine. Hopes in Baghdad that a campaign led by France and Russia to lift sanctions would succeed were set back by the President's ruthless disposal of his two defecting sons-in-law and UN revelations this month that 16 Scud missiles, some possibly equipped with chemical warheads, remain unaccounted for.

The Iraqi National Congress last night demanded "suffrage for all Iraqis". The group added: "This cannot take place until the instruments of terror are dismantled and Saddam himself is removed."

THE TIMES

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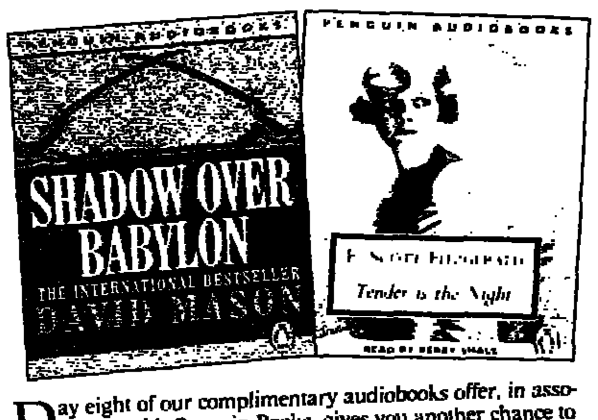

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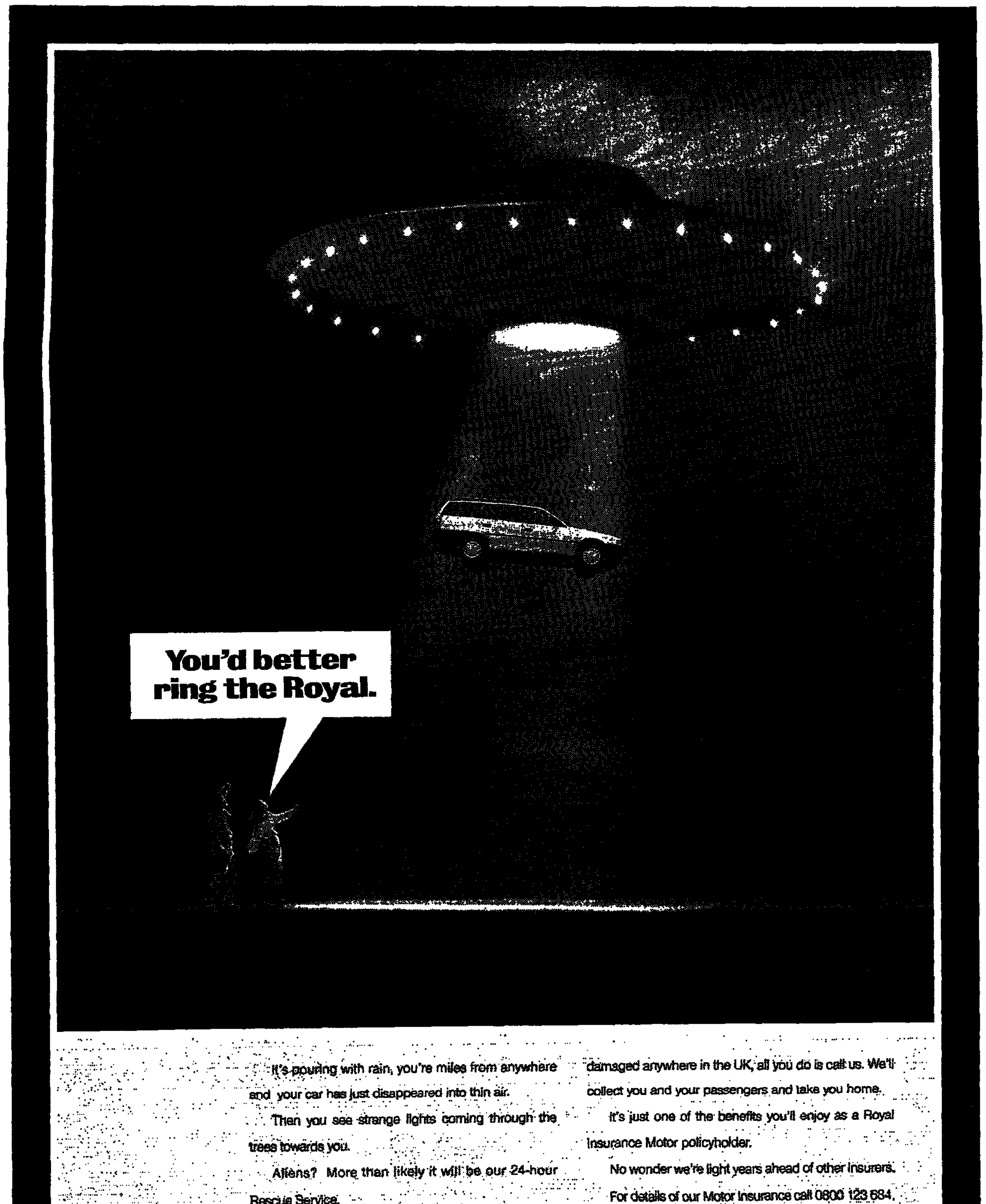

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Starting today, a week-long guide to help you to chart your child's progress through the national curriculum

Why national tests are so important

Nick Tate explains the benefits for pupils and their parents, for teachers and schools, and for the whole country

It is a truism that we live in an information-rich society and that information is power. But getting the right information to the right people can be difficult, as can helping them interpret it in the right way.

Providing parents with useful, easy-to-interpret information about how their children are doing in school was a key reason for introducing national tests for seven, 11 and 14-year-olds. At the end of the current school year the parents of all these children will, for the first time, receive information which shows how they are performing in relation to national standards in English and mathematics and, at ages 11 and 14, in science. They will also be given separate results based on teachers' assessments of each child's work.

Parents will learn, for example, that 42 per cent of pupils nationally obtained Level 4 in English at age 11 — the level expected of a typical child of that age — that 7 per cent obtained Level 5 and above, and that 45 per cent obtained Level 3 and below. In addition, they will be told how their child is doing in relation to average performance at the school and how the school's performance compares with national averages.

All this information is useful to parents for three reasons: as a record of how their child is performing in relation to a standard measure; as a way of identifying their child's strengths and weaknesses, so helping them in the next stage of their learning; and so that, where they have a choice of schools, parents can exercise this in as informed a way as possible.

But it is not just parents who are getting value from the tests. Detailed marking of answers can show children how they are performing in the different elements of a subject. The tests also give public recognition to what they have achieved. They motivate them by giving them something to aim for.

There is little evidence that children are intimidated by the tests. Most appear to rise to the occasion and even enjoy being the centre of attention. School attendance among 14-year-olds during the test weeks in May is invariably higher than at any other point during the year.

The tests also provide teachers with information which helps them to improve the quality of their teaching. The results often reveal things that teachers did not know — in some cases, it is just that the information is not being extracted or used.

Where the information is particularly useful is in showing schools how well they are doing with certain groups of pupils or aspects of subjects. The results are a powerful management tool for head teachers, who are able to see at a glance how different classes are performing in relation to each other, how levels of attainment vary across subjects and between boys and girls, and how the school's performance compares with performance nationally and with its results in previous years.

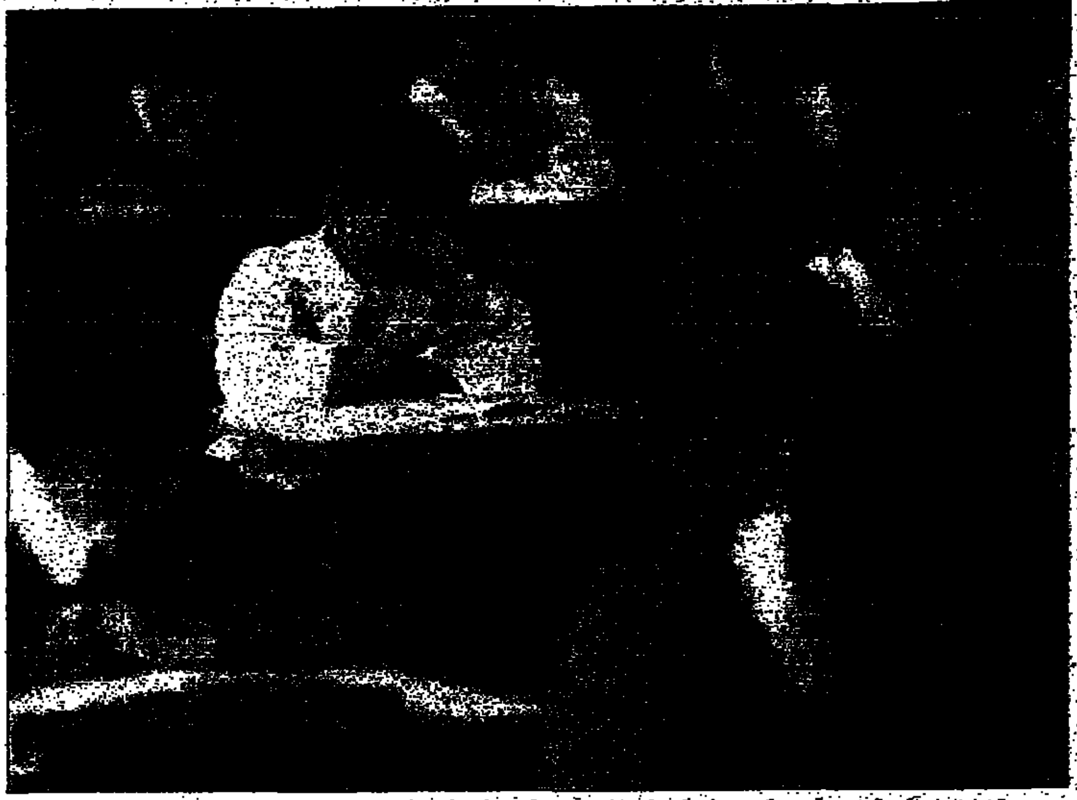
For example, one school, whose gap between boys' and girls' performance in English was much greater than the national average, is now experimenting with single-sex teaching and reviewing the kinds of texts used as a way of stimulating greater interest among boys.

Finally, the tests will enable us to make judgments about whether national levels of attainment are rising or falling, especially in the key areas of literacy and numeracy. It will be possible to set targets for national performance in the same way we have done at ages 19 and 21.

The tests are now an established part of the annual rhythm of schools. Last year was the first in which virtually all seven, 11 and 14-year-olds took part. We need the same high level of participation this year if we are to obtain maximum benefit: for pupils, for their parents, for teachers and schools, and for the country as a whole.

● *The author is the chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.*

BARRY GREENWOOD



Pupils at Audenshaw High School, Manchester, begin their national curriculum test

Calculators to be outlawed

ELEVEN-year-olds will all have to take a mathematics paper without the aid of a calculator in one of the main changes to the format of this year's tests, *David Charter writes.*

Worries about the ability of children to perform mental arithmetic brought the change and may well lead to calculators being banished in both maths papers at Key Stage 2 next year.

Maths papers for 11-year-olds will also be ten minutes longer after complaints from teachers that even the best pupils were struggling to finish last year. The number of questions and their overall level of difficulty will be the same, but the children will have 45 minutes.

Science questions for 11-year-olds will be more demanding, especially towards the end of the papers. A spokesman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said it intended "a substantial increase in difficulty for the most challenging questions". The time allowed remains 35 minutes, although there are more questions this year.

At Stage 3, the 14-year-olds are to have their English tests on two separate days and will have an extra 15 minutes for the extension paper. In maths, the first two papers will be held on the same day. The extension paper has been reduced by 30 minutes to an hour.

Pupils find their Level

The top two levels of the tests have been dropped this year, although in practice very few 14-year-olds reached the dizzy heights of Level 9 or 10 in previous years.

These two levels corresponded to an A grade and a starred A grade at GCSE, something most 16-year-olds would be pleased to achieve.

National curriculum tests have been designed so the typical child progresses by a level every two years, starting with Level 1 at the age of five.

Seven-year-olds whose scores in their English and mathematics tests fall below the achievement expected of the average five-year-old will simply be recorded as "working towards" Level 1.

The tests assess the work carried out in each of the first three key stages of the national curriculum.

The typical seven-year-old should be at Level 2, the typical 11-year-old at Level 4, and the typical 14-year-old at Level 5 or 6, since the test comes midway between expected levels.

Papers are tiered for older children so they take tests suitable for their own aptitude, and teachers will decide which ones they sit. For example, in maths for 14-year-olds, there are four alternative tiered papers, covering Levels 3 to 5, 4 to 6, 5 to 7 and 6 to 8. A child thought to be at about Level 5 will be entered for the Level 4 to 6 paper.

All children can take optional extension papers to try to raise their level of achievement. Seven-year-olds can simply take papers designed for 11-year-olds, while the 11-year-olds can try for Level 6 by taking half-hour papers in science or maths and an hour-long paper in English.

The 14-year-olds who excel in any of the hour-long extension papers, reaching beyond Level 8, will be given written recognition of their exceptional performance.

DAVID CHARTER

TIMETABLE OF THE TESTS

7 year olds	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Spelling [illegible]	[illegible]
		Writing [illegible]	[illegible]
	Any time in May	Optional reading comprehension	Level 2
		Reading comprehension	Level 3
		Mathematical test	Levels 2-3
11 year olds	May 13 Morning	[illegible]	[illegible]
	May 14 Morning	Mathematics	[illegible]
	Afternoon	Science	[illegible]
	May 15 Morning	Reading	1 hr
	Afternoon	Spelling	[illegible]
		Handwriting	[illegible]
	May 16 Morning	Writing	[illegible]
	Afternoon	English extension paper	[illegible]
	May 17 Morning	Science	[illegible]
	May 20 Morning	Mathematics extension paper	[illegible]
	Afternoon	Science extension paper	[illegible]
14 year olds	May 8 Morning	English	1 hr 45 mins
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Afternoon	English extension paper	[illegible]
	May 10 Morning	Mathematics	1 hr
	Afternoon	Mathematics	[illegible]
	[illegible] Morning	Science	[illegible]
	Afternoon	Science	[illegible]
	May 14 Morning	Mathematics extension paper	[illegible]
	Afternoon	Science extension paper	[illegible]

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هكذا من الأصل

Off to a gentle start at seven

John O'Leary on the user-friendly first stage, carefully designed not to alarm the youngest

For more than half a million seven-year-olds, next term marks a milestone. Their national curriculum tests in May will introduce them to a process that will punctuate their school career.

The results will not affect their future prospects, but they will provide a baseline from which their progress in later years will be judged. They will also provide parents with their first indication of where their children stand in comparison with others in their school.

Reports to be discussed with parents before the end of the summer term will give the levels achieved by the child in English, mathematics and science, and the average for the school. On past form, national comparisons will not be available until early next year.

Every school is required to publish its results in its annual report, so prospective parents can make their own comparisons. But despite some pressure, there will be no league tables for this age group.

By the time they leave school, the present seven-year-olds will have faced at least four sets of national tests and public examinations. None will be as user-friendly as these. They have been designed specifically to fit into the pattern of work expected under the national curriculum and not to alarm pupils.

The tests have changed significantly since their controversial introduction five years ago. Although still not popular in primary schools, most teachers would admit that the tests are more focused and much less time-consuming than the original Standard Assessment Tasks (SATs).

Some schools have already started the basic classroom tasks in writing, spelling and mathematics, but most prefer to wait until after Easter to minimise disruption.

The tasks are undertaken individually and cover only the first two levels of the curriculum. Children write a short story and read a set piece, with assessment based on their response to the whole passage. In mathematics, last year's candidates used plastic shapes to sort and demonstrate a recognition of pattern; a second section tested counting and subtraction of numbers up to ten, and a third introduced coins.

Class teachers will decide whether children go on to attempt the tests which are pitched at higher levels. In English, for example, those who are judged to have reached Level 3 in May's optional reading comprehension will go on to take a harder test. Last year's used a booklet containing a story and two pieces of informative writing.

In mathematics last year, the test contained 30 questions to be completed in 40 minutes, moving from arithmetic into algebra, shape and space, and handling data. Science was assessed entirely by teachers without standard tasks, as it will be this year.

Some schools have introduced "mock tests" to familiarise seven-year-olds with the process and reinforce earlier learning, but few teachers encourage revision sessions. Most advise parents to treat the test season as normal school days so as not to instil a sense of anxiety into a process that many children actually enjoy.

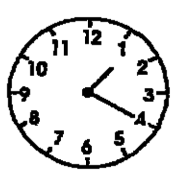
RICHARD RAYNER

A seven-year-old pupil at a Nottingham primary school

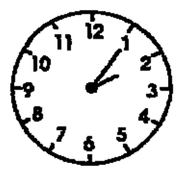
Beating the clock

THE two questions on this page are taken from last year's tests for children of average ability or above. *A New Home for Toad* formed part of the optional reading comprehension test at Level 2, while the clock question was designed to identify Level 3 mathematicians. Only 12 per cent of seven-year-olds calculated the cooking time correctly, but the question was in the most difficult section of the mathematics test. About 70 per cent of children managed the comprehension questions, although some appeared not to notice that two answers were required.

Steven put a cake in the oven at this time.



He took it out of the oven at this time.



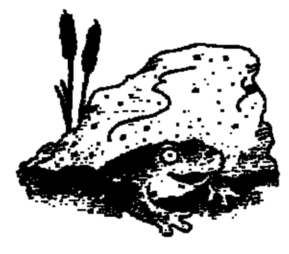
How long was the cake in the oven?

☐ minutes

Toad walked all the way back to the pond.

"Do I really want a new home?" he asked.
Toad decided to go for a swim to think about it.

He swam across his same old pond. It felt good.

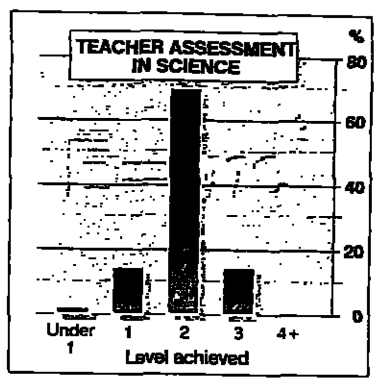


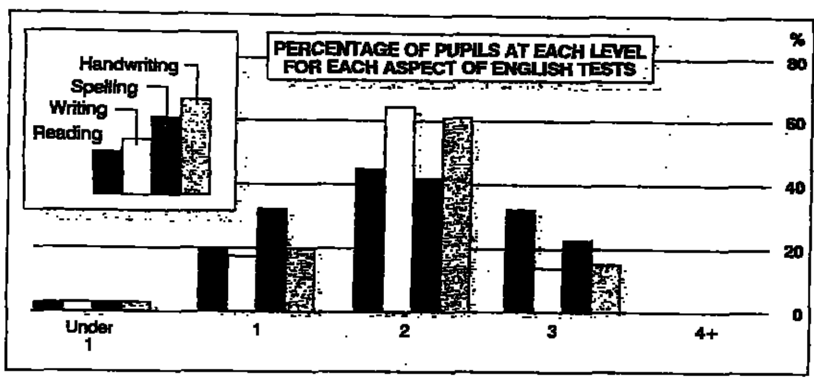
He climbed out of the pond and crawled under his same old stone. It was cool and dark and safe.

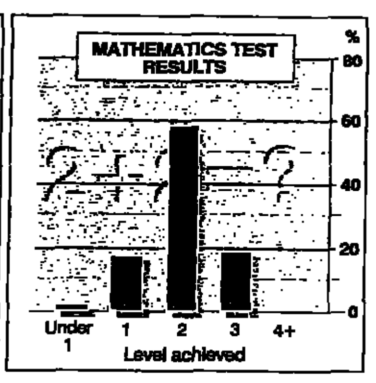
"Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmm. . .," said Toad. "I think I'll stay here after all."

11. When Toad got back to the pond he
    - ☐ ate some food. ☐ went to sleep.
    - ☐ built a nest. ☐ went swimming.
12. In the end Toad decided to live
    - ☐ in a shell. ☐ under a stone.
    - ☐ under the ground. ☐ up in a roof.

Young spellers fall at the first fens







MORE than three-quarters of seven-year-olds reached the expected level (2) in almost every part of last year's tests, *John O'Leary writes*. The only exception was spelling, which defeated a third of pupils.

Although lower than the scores registered by schools in 1994, the results were significantly better than those for 11-year-olds.

The spelling of long vowel sounds caused the most difficulty; only one in five spelt "scream" correctly. Most errors in all areas could be traced back to the misapplication of genuine spelling rules, such as "bred" for "bread" or "fens" for "fence".

More girls than boys reached Level 3 in English — almost 40 per cent managed the required standard in reading, compared with 28 per cent of boys. But boys did better than girls in mathematics and science.

Reading information from graphs caused most problems in the mathematics test, although the lowest pass rate was for a question requiring pupils to calculate the change from £3 when buying three 90p pots of daffodils. Only 8 per cent answered correctly, compared with 90 per cent for the paper's easiest question.

Almost nine out of ten children were awarded Level 2 or better in science, which teachers assessed in four areas. The separate papers for high-flyers judged capable of reaching Level 4 were taken by so few pupils that only in handwriting did 1 per cent reach the required mark.

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infinitesimal as compared with what we have

things whose nerve centres do not lie deep enough to be shielded from their influence.

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART

Charles Saatchi's gallery shows a new selection of rising young American artists

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow

■ DANCE

Waiting for Charming: Michael Corder's version of *Cinderella* comes to the Coliseum

OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ MUSIC

Andrew Davis leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra through Takemitsu at the Festival Hall

CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ THEATRE

At the Queen's Theatre, Michael Ball turns on the *Passion* in Sondheim's musical

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

THEATRE

Hearts lost in dreams

More Than Kisses
Riverside Studios

THE title of this short, intense piece sounds like a quotation, and, at a guess, the item being proffered is friendship. However, this is to side with Miriam, who sits in her north London bedsit, dreaming of being loved by Peter, who has the room below. Since Peter is gay, the best she can hope for is to be his good friend, and in this she succeeds, until he meets Craig.

We do not meet this muscular demigod, but he must satisfy enough of Peter's masochistic longings because the play ends with the two men living together, and Miriam back with her daydreams.

Written by Graeme Messer and Clāre Basel, who are also the two performers, the work is in part a meditation on fantasy, and, when seen from Peter's point of view, it may be that fantasy kisses are valued more than the real kind.

The focus shifts between Messer and Basel, in her room, in his, on the stairs of a gay disco, and beneath an eerie bridge that is Peter's special place. We hear just one anecdote about his dead father but we can relate to it his compulsion to abase himself and to worship big strong boots. Miriam's fantasy world excludes her childhood, but when Peter becomes her love-object, she rapturously pictures him as her lover, and in one scene he imagines her as his loving mother. They sleep in each other's arms.

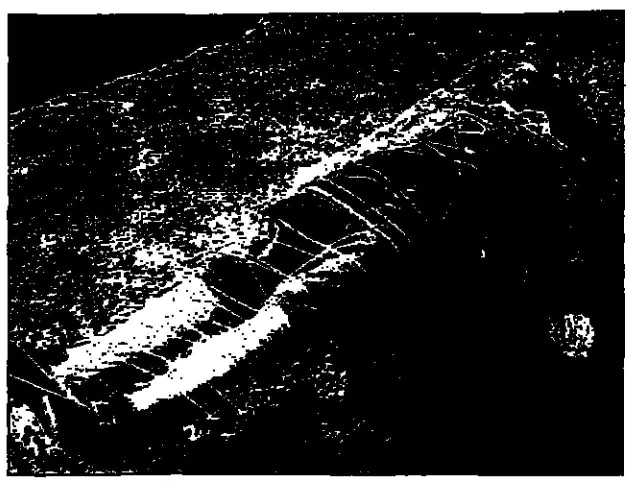
Staging is simple, and the light from the naked, low-wattage bulbs overhead is a fine creator of mood (lighting by Ian Scott); likewise Philip Miller's edgy music.

The language combines grave formality from Basel's Miriam, haunted with wonder, and more devious utterances from Messer's Peter. He has a nervy little smile and a careful politeness of manner with her, but in his room the secrets of his heart hurtle out in a paean of adoration containing submission and aggression in equal measure. It's a sad, passionate, even humorous glimpse at lives brought together by chance and separated by desire.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Twice, Duncan Kenworthy has proved Hollywood wrong. **Sue Summers** reports

Two weddings, no funeral



Ted Danson gives televisual appeal to *Gulliver's Travels*

DES JENSON

Duncan Kenworthy has a short but sweet producer's CV: *Four Weddings* and *Gulliver*

When you have just produced the most successful film in British cinema history, you might be forgiven for thinking that the industry's money-men would be falling over themselves to back whatever follow-up project you cared to name. But such has not been the experience of Duncan Kenworthy, whose very first venture into large-screen production was *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

In 1994, at the very moment when *Four Weddings* was hitting the heights at the American box office, Kenworthy found himself in a windswept car park in Land's End, listening to his American agent on his portable phone.

"Your script is dead in Hollywood," the agent told him. "Forget it — nobody wants to do it."

The trouble was that Kenworthy's follow-up to *Four Weddings* was not another romantic comedy confirming America's most deeply held opinions of the dotty English. It was the greatest and most lethal satire in the English language, Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, a book whose title is known to everyone — even some Hollywood executives — but which is nowadays almost never read in its sprawling entirety.

The cosy, small scale of *Four Weddings* had no place in Kenworthy's vision of *Gulliver's Travels*. He proposed not just the usual comic book version of Gulliver and the tiny Lilliputians or the giant Brobdingnagians, but an adaptation of the whole work, including the later, lesser-known encounters with the Flying Island, the Winims and Yahoos, the Sorcerer and the Struldbruggs. The script, by Simon Moore, had been commissioned seven years earlier, and Kenworthy had amassed two filing cabinets full of rejections.

Still, he was hoping that the success of *Four Weddings* might moderate the attitude of his agent, who had said he would rather have root canal work than read the script of *Gulliver* ever again.

"I never lose my temper, but when he told me to drop it, something flipped," Kenworthy says. "I said to him, '*Four Weddings* cost $4.5 million and to date it's grossed $250 million. Nobody wanted to do it, and your agency told me it would never work in America. But it's a *big* success, and what's happened? Hugh Grant can greenlight any film he wants. But what happens to the producer? He gets told his script is dead.' What do you have to do to get some credibility?"

> ‘There is no formula for success in my field’

"There was a pause, and then he said: 'You know, you're right.'"

The agent was Bill Haber, then one of the top executives at all-powerful CAA, and when he finally got behind the project, results quickly followed. Haber introduced Kenworthy to Robert Halmi Sr, who runs the entertainment division of Hallmark Cards. Halmi sold the idea to the TV network NBC, who put up the bulk of the £13 million budget to make *Gulliver's Travels* in Britain as a two-part drama starring Ted Danson and his wife, Mary Steenburgen.

The result is that once again Kenworthy has hit the jackpot. When it was shown on American television in February, *Gulliver's Travels* was watched by an audience of 57 million, making it the highest-rated NBC drama series for nine years.

Does Kenworthy's career to date not demonstrate a quite extraordinary gift for anticipating public taste? Modest to a degree hitherto unknown in the film world, the pale, thin Kenworthy goes positively ashen at this invitation to blow his own trumpet. "I'm not going to be talked into that," he says. "I think I've been lucky. There is no formula for success in my field. There'd be a lot of very happy producers around if there were."

Born in Saddleworth, Yorkshire, Kenworthy, 46, is the son of a millowner ("Only a small mill") and got a first in English at Cambridge. He then landed a job in New York with the Children's TV Workshop, the non-profit-making company responsible for *Sesame Street*. Here he met Jim Henson, the creator of the Muppets and, Kenworthy says, "the only true genius I've ever known". He worked for Henson for 16 years, first producing international versions of *Sesame Street*, then as head of UK production, and was on a sabbatical from the Henson organisation when he made *Four Weddings*.

The film has made him rich enough never to have to work again and means, he says, that he can stop seeking "the holy grail of all British producers — a successful film that makes money". He is particularly proud of the fact that *Four Weddings* earned £27 million at the British box office, second only to *Jurassic Park*. "It shows that British audiences will go to see a British film, if it's marketed properly and if it delivers," he says. "But I don't think it would have happened had the film not already been a hit in America. It would merely have been sniped at as a glorified TV movie. We don't like to praise our own abilities wholeheartedly, do we?"

Whether prior success in America works equally in favour of *Gulliver's Travels* will be discovered when Channel 4 shows the series over the Easter weekend. As imagined by the director Charles Sturridge and translated to the screen by some of the hottest new technology available, the visual effects are little short of magical. But Swift purists may object to the fact that Moore has invented an entirely new "framing" story about Gulliver's attempts to reintegrate himself with his wife and society. And, of course, the involvement of NBC dictated that the hero of one of the great works of English literature had to be played by an American.

"My hope was that there would be a British actor of sufficient marketability in America," Kenworthy says. "In fact, I once suggested Liam Neeson and the American network concerned said: 'Could you spell that for us, please?'

"On *Four Weddings* there were no casting limits placed on us whatever. On this, we had fights every day with the American network about who we could make offers to. They insisted on having six recognisable stars and they knew what they wanted — stars of other TV series on their network.

"Danson is a huge TV star in America, but having him won't be a plus over here. Historians say that the English accent of 1726 was, in fact, closer to the American of today. But I understand why people might bridle at the idea of an American playing Gulliver. All I'd say is: please watch and decide afterwards."

● Gulliver's Travels *will be shown on Channel 4 on Easter Sunday and Monday*.

Cool charge of static electricity

CONCERT

Cleveland Orch/Dohnányi
Festival Hall

IF AMERICA still has its Big Five orchestras, the Cleveland Orchestra is definitely among them — and pretty high in the pecking order, too. Its concert at the Festival Hall on Thursday night, under music director Christoph von Dohnányi, was one of the highlights of the London International Orchestral Season.

The concert opened with a typically adventurous piece of programming: Ligeti's *Atmosphères*, followed without a break by the Prelude to Act I of Wagner's *Lohengrin*. This is a gambit that Dohnányi has worked before, and to good effect, for both pieces trade in stasis — or the illusion of it. *Atmosphères* evokes immobility by the paradoxical means of tiny, intricate movements: the *Lohengrin Prelude*, which depicts the mystic descent of the Holy Grail, achieves its stillness through more conventional sustained tones, though the texture is a good deal more complex than it sounds to the innocent ear.

Both pieces pose considerable problems of ensemble, and although the Clevelanders are not flawless in this department, they do play extraordinarily well together in a broader sense. Over the dozen years of his directorship, Dohnányi has welded the various sections of the orchestra into a refined and sensitive instrument.

Those qualities were displayed admirably in the remaining two works: Schumann's Symphony No 1 (*Spring*) and Stravinsky's *Firebird* music (given complete). Dohnányi has long given the lie to the notion of Schumann's "muddy" scoring, and here again he showed how a conductor with a good ear can make those textures homogeneous and buoyant rather than thick and turgid.

The *Firebird* score is a gift for an orchestra such as the Cleveland, with star players in its ranks who can still meld well in ensemble. The sheer inventiveness and mastery of Stravinsky's Rimsky-influenced orchestration never ceases to astonish, and his exotic palette of colours was vibrantly exploited.

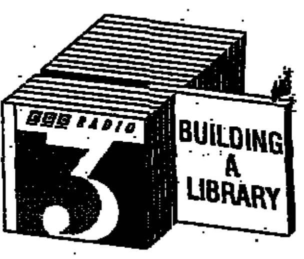
The danger is that surface brilliance becomes an end in itself, and all four items in the programme seemed to me to be characterised by a certain aloofness. But coolness is all part of Dohnányi's charm, and there is no doubting the fact that it draws inordinately cultivated, high-class playing from the Clevelanders.

BARRY MILLINGTON

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

DEBUSSY'S 24 PRELUDES
by BRYCE MORRISON



With characteristic ambition, Debussy aimed to "express the inexpressible" in his 24 Preludes. He also wished to write music "for an instrument without hammers"; to subdue and transcend the piano's percussive limitations.

He would, I feel, have felt disconcerted by several of today's recordings of the Preludes, particularly those by compatriots who, hardened by overfamiliarity, substitute a generalised *mezzo forte* for those myriad shades of *pianissimo* which lie at the very heart of Debussian fantasy and caprice.

No one, however, could accuse Claudio Arrau of such indifference. For him every note is worth its weight in gold. Michelangeli (on DG) was capable of the finest Debussy, but he could show an icy disdain for many of the composer's most revealing intimacies. Krystian Zimerman (DG), while hardly less pianistically imperious, is infinitely more caring. On the other hand, his gleaming sonority and pinpoint definition can at times be aggressive. Martino Tirimo (on IMP Classics) is an elegant and often stylish Debussian, while Gordon Fergus-Thompson (ASV) is more adept at locating the music's emotional undertow.

Characteristically, though, Walter Gieseking took a more direct path to poetic truth and, in *General Lavine-eccentric* (reflecting Debussy's love of vaudeville), he made the composer's tragi-comic figure trip the light fantastic before collapsing in a tipsy heap. His playing has unforgettable wit, subtlety and finesse; common denominators where great Debussy is concerned. EMI's single CD of the Preludes is more than successful, but the new, superbly remastered four-CD boxed set of virtually the complete piano music is both mid-price and beyond price.

● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Bruckner's Fifth Symphony*

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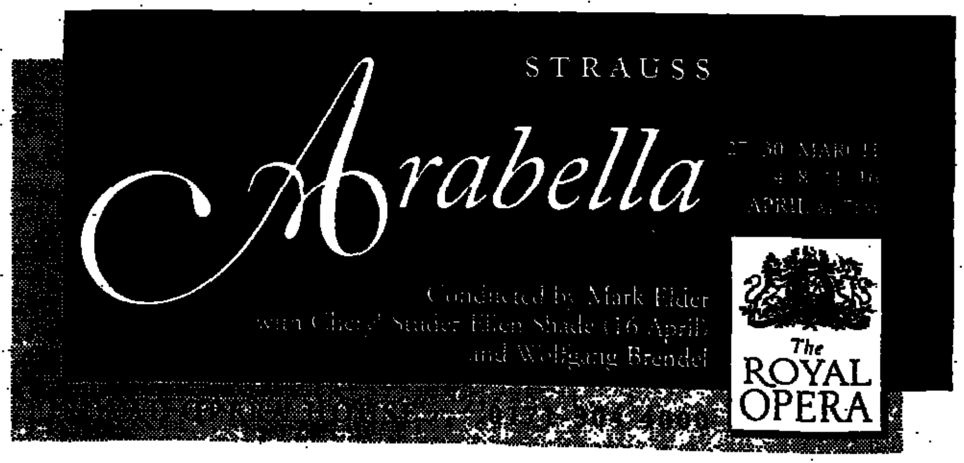

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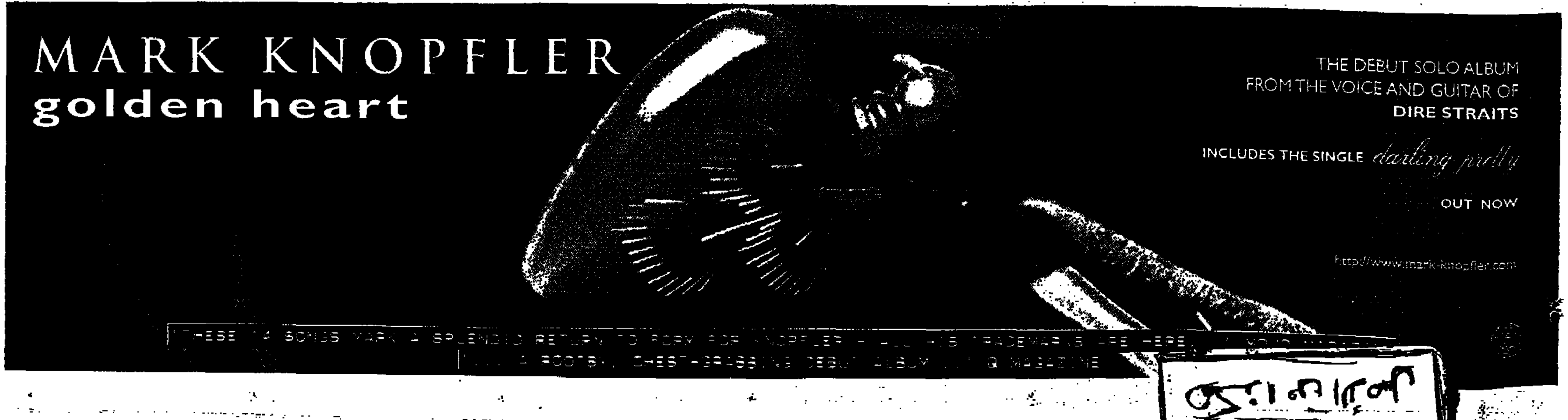

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■ OPERA

American soprano Cheryl Studer sings the lead in Strauss's *Arabella* at Covent Garden

OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

■ BOOKS

Melvyn Bragg plunges into the medieval world for his new novel, *Credo*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

■ FILM

Murder and its punishment are explored in Tim Robbins's *Dead Man Walking*

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

■ POP

Will this be the big-time year for Marion? The Forum audience may find out

GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

A foot in both camps

POP

Everything but the Girl
Empire, W12

LINDSAY MAGGS

Everything but the Girl may be in transitional mode, but the cool and lovely voice of Tracey Thorn remains intact

It is not the first time they have pulled themselves back from the brink of, if not quite disaster, at least commercial indifference or, worse still, artistic coziness: both 1988's *I Don't Want To Talk About It* and 1992's *Covers* EP ended extensive periods of chart drought for Everything but the Girl. But this year the worldwide success of Todd Terry's dance remix of the obsessive *Missing* has given a particular boost to the collective career of Ben Watt and Tracey Thorn.

Ironically, the success of the track (taken from the duo's seventh studio LP, *Amplified Heart*) occurred just as its makers had been set free by their previous record label. Now, freshly signed to Virgin, and with a new album imminent, the two find themselves in transitional mode, as Friday night's Empire appearance proved succinctly.

On the one hand, the duo retains a considerable following among those who doted on the melancholic intimacy of their earlier work: on the other, *Missing* plus the glorious results of Thorn's recent collaborations with Massive Attack have drawn in a new and entirely different audience of young clubgoers.

These two camps rubbed shoulders somewhat uneasily here. The old guard seemed thrown by the trip-hop beats and grooves that frame the material on *Walking Wounded*, that forthcoming LP, and so cheered gratefully whenever something familiar from the back catalogue presented itself. The new wave, meanwhile, stood semi-patiently through these occasional trips down an acoustic memory lane, patently anxious for the groovy new dance stars within Everything but the Girl to reassert themselves.

Which, repeatedly, they did. For there is no pussyfooting around for new-era Ben'n'Tracey: aided here only by their long-time collaborators, Danny Thompson on double bass and Martin Ditcham on percussion, drums and samples, they discreetly remodelled all but the simplest of their old material (Watt's stark ballad *The Night I Heard Caruso Sing* remains deeply affecting) and, on tracks from *Walking Wounded*, indicated just how committed they now are to the brave new world of drum'n'bass, a kind of bossa nova for the millennium.

Though even more suited to Thorn's cool and lovely voice than the faux jazz stylings of their earliest work, it could not distract from the fact that the two's new songs — *Flipside*, *Big Deal*, *Before Today*, *Wrong* — are as strong as anything they have written in years. A daring reinvention then, but a timely and ultimately triumphant one — only the least adventurous of their diehard fans need feel threatened by this progress.

ALAN JACKSON

OPERA: Welsh National Opera makes a brief but triumphant visit to Covent Garden

Warhorses make a winning run

FOR three nights last week the Royal Opera House was besieged by opera-lovers desperate to acquire tickets for a short run of sold-out performances. On this occasion, however, though there were singers of the highest calibre on the bill, it was not the spurious glamour of some big name that had drawn the crowds.

Instead, the irresistible attraction was the twelfth Amoco-sponsored London mini-season by Welsh National Opera. Big names have never really been the point at WNO, though Cardiff has nurtured more than its share of great performers. Imaginative stagings, powerful ensemble work and home-grown vocal talent are the company's strengths, and all were in evidence in the two productions brought to London.

It was with **Cavalleria rusticana** and **Pagliacci** that WNO made its debut in 1946, and it was with Elijah Moshinsky's new staging of the same double bill that the company opened on Wednesday at Covent Garden. As Rodney Milnes observed when he reviewed this production in Cardiff, Moshinsky's staging makes these operatic warhorses seem entirely fresh. Effectively designed by Michael Yeargan, well-lit by Howard Harrison, it uses wholly traditional means, with Mascagni's surging melodrama set firmly in period, and Leoncavallo's vivid shocker cleverly updated to the 1940s or 1950s.

In *Cavalleria rusticana*, Yeargan's solidly detailed sets and Moshinsky's deftly managed crowd scenes create a convincing Sicilian context for the unfolding drama of vengeance and betrayal. At its heart, Anne-Marie Owens is an anguished, impressive Santuzza. Dennis O'Neill's Turiddu is ringingly sung, full of desperate machismo, the childish weakness affectingly clear behind the manly swagger.

In *Pagliacci*, set around the travelling players' battered truck, there is a more adult weakness to O'Neill's tormented Canio, a desolate intensity in his devotion to Rosalind Sutherland's assured, compelling Nedda. Peter Sidhom (dignified as Mascagni's Alfio, sinister as Leoncavallo's Tonio) and Menai Davies (a sympathetic Mamma Lucia) stood out in a strong supporting cast. Carlo Rizzi in the pit showed an unwavering sense of dramatic purpose.

The following evening brought Matthew Warchus's ingenious staging of **The Rake's Progress**. The decision to update the action as it goes along, starting in the time of Hogarth and ending in 1951, when Stravinsky's opera had its premiere, brings few unequivocal gains. But Laura Hopkins's designs are handsome and economical, and the performances are uniformly impressive.

Paul Nilon's intense Tom Rakewell is no match for Bryn Terfel's commanding Nick Shadow, but nor should he be. Alwyn Mellor's unaffected Anne and Claire Powell's colourful Baba the Turk make a similarly well-contrasted pair. Mark Wigglesworth's sensitive and searching reading may not be the only way to approach Stravinsky's acerbic, eclectic score, but the result is persuasive and often ravishing.

IAN BRUNSKILL

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

CINDERELLA: Michael Corder's extravaganza for English National Ballet makes its London debut tonight, with designs by David Walker and a more complete version of the Prokofiev score than we often hear. From Thursday, Deane's unusual 1920s interpretation of Giselle and Balanchine's bravura mix of folksy charm and classic display, *Square Dance*
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; *mat Sat, 2.30pm* 🅂

MARIANNE FAITHFULL: Its returns only for her *Evening in the Weimar Republic* show, a special programme of songs by Brecht & Weill. First seen at the Brooklyn Academy of Music as long ago as 1994.
Jazz Café, London NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tonight-Wed

BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH
Opening night for this award-winning first play from yet another Irish prodigy: Jimmy Murphy's comic tragedy of three Dublin house painters pitted against each other by their demanding boss. A Soho Theatre Co co-production, directed by Rough Magic's Lynne Parker.
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 5.30 and 8.30pm. Until June 8

ELSEWHERE

BLACKPOOL: **The Royal Ballet Dance Bites** tour moves into its final week. This year's acclaimed offerings include premieres by Emma Diamond, Tom Sapsford and Christopher Wheeldon, William Forsythe's acclaimed *Steptext* and Ashley Page's new pas de deux for Viviana Durante and Irek Mukhamedov complete the programme.
Grand, Church Street 🅂 (01253 28372). Tonight, 7.30pm, Tue, 2pm and 7.30pm. Thurs-Sat in **Bath**, Theatre Royal 🅂 (01225 448844)

DARTFORD: *A tenth anniversary tour of* **Chess** gets under way tonight, led by veterans of musical blockbusters: Jacqui Scott as Florence, Bogdan Kominowski as the American Grandmaster, and Maurice Clarke, the Russian champion Sergievsky. Music by the Abba team of Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus; lyrics by Tim Rice.
Orchard, Home Gardens (01322 220000). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Apr 6 🅂

NOTTINGHAM: Opening night for Eleanor Bron, playing one of the troubled middle-agers in **A Delicate Balance**, Edward Albee's darkly humorous and passionate play about neighbourliness. Tom Cairns directs what may be the first revival since the RSC production in the 1970s.
Playhouse, Wellington Circus (0115-941 9419). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Mar 30, 2.30pm. Until Apr 6 🅂

WICK: **Essential Scottish Opera** takes to the road again, with excerpts from some of the world's best-loved operas. Claire Rutter, Clare Bradshaw, Richard Coxon, Stephen Gadd and ESO music director Ian Shaw twinkling at the piano make up the entourage.
Assembly Rooms, Sinclair Terrace (01847 892838). Tomorrow in **Gairloch** High School, Thurs; **Ballachulish**, Isles of Glencoe Hotel: Mar 31, **Edinburgh**, Royal Lyceum. All at 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Vases and Volcanoes: Sir William Hamilton collection (0171-636 1555) . . **Hayward**: Spellbound: Art and Film (0171-928 3144) . . **National Gallery**: At Home with Constable's Cornfield (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait Gallery**: The Room in View (0171-306 0055) . . **Royal Academy**: Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7438) . . **Tate**: Cézanne (0171-887 8000) . . **V & A**: The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **THE CHANGING ROOM**: Final week for David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. Third in the season of Royal Court Classics.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

☐ **COMPANY**: Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent *staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.*
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **DISGRACEFULLY YOURS**: Richard O'Brien plays the satanic host at Club Inferno: awesomely feeble.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat 6pm and 8.30pm.

☐ **HARRY AND ME**: Sheila Hancock, Ron Cook, Dudley Sutton in new Nigel Williams play, a dark comedy recording the death throes of an appalling chat show. James Macdonald directs.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens March 27, 7pm.

◩ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie.
***Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1* (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 🅂

■ **MARY STUART**: Isabelle Huppert makes her English stage debut in the title role of Schiller's great drama, playing opposite Anna Massey's Virgin Queen. Howard Davies directs. In rep.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (928 2252). Tonight, Tue 7.30pm. 🅂

☐ **PRESENT LAUGHTER**: Peter Bowles plays Coward's exaggerated self-portrait in an only so-so production.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-379 3367). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

◩ **SKYLIGHT**: Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm

☐ *THE SOLDIER'S SONG*: James Ryder's first play tells of a Belfast family ignorant that their son is an IRA man with a mission. Though he is not a rounded character, there is passion and credibility elsewhere.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm 🅂

◩ **TAP DOGS**: Dein Perry's sextet of dancers in working-boots returns to its building-site set. High energy stuff, though some dance aficionados have been unimpressed.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Previews tonight and tomorrow; opens Wed, all at 8pm

◩ **TOMMY**: Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm 🅂

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . ☐ **Communicating Doors**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . ☐ **Funny Money**: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) . . ◩ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ☐ **Mack and Mabel**: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) . . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . ◩ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ◩ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . ◩ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) *on release across the country*

NEW RELEASES

CYCLO (18): Over-forceful portrait of Ho Chi Minh City's urban hell. From the director of *The Scent of Green Papaya*, Tran Anh Hung
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470)

JEFFREY (18): Should a gay man have sex? Life-affirming comedy falls flat. With Steve Weber and Patrick Stewart. Director, Christopher Ashley.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

RHYTHM THIEF (18): Desolate lives on New York's Lower East Side. Energetic but exasperating no-budget movie. Director, Matthew Harrison
Prince Charles (0171-437 8181)

TOY STORY (PG): Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fretful toys. With the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. Director, John Lasseter
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **CASINO** (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

FRENCH TWIST (18): Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril
MGMs: Fulham Road 🅂 (0171-370 2636) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** 🅂 (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. *Entertaining but trivial comedy from* Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo, Delroy Lindo
Empire 🅂 (0171-437 1234) **Gate** 🅂 (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ **NIXON** (15): Exhausting, overlong portrait with Anthony Hopkins and too much razzle-dazzle from director Oliver Stone. With Joan Allen
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **RESTORATION** (15): Life and loves of a 17th-century physician (Robert Downey Jr). Costume extravaganza loses its way. With Meg Ryan and Sam Neill. Director, Michael Hoffman
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 915574)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U): Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** 🅂 (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** 🅂 (0171-435 3366)

STRANGE DAYS (18): Uncomfortable apocalyptic drama, with Ralph Fiennes as a trafficker in virtual reality. With Angela Bassett. Kathryn Bigelow directs.
MGM Trocadero 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

ENTERTAINMENTS

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Astronomers search for the legacy of Einstein

Universal waves

SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

THE search for the most elusive of Einstein's legacies is gathering speed. With the aid of a new £1 million grant from the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, British and German astronomers have begun building one of four detectors around the world designed to pick up gravitational waves, produced by some of the universe's most spectacular events.

Exploding stars, black holes swallowing each other, rotating neutron stars and the Big Bang itself are all believed to convert huge amounts of energy into gravitational waves. These waves, first postulated by Einstein's general theory of relativity in 1916, are assumed to sweep unseen and undetected through the universe, passing easily through matter.

The effect of a passing wave is so slight as to be virtually undetectable. In the GEO600 instrument being built near Hanover, the movement will be picked up by an instrument consisting of two tubes at right angles to one another, each a near-perfect vacuum and with the world's best mirrors at each end to reflect laser light to and fro along the arms.

When a gravitational wave arrives, it will alter the length of one of the arms relative to the other, by a distance that is a small fraction of the diameter of the nucleus of a single atom. The movement will be detected by small changes in the interference patterns formed by the reflected laser light.

Each leg of the GEO600 instrument is 600 metres long, making it considerably smaller than the two LIGO detectors in America, each of which is 4km long. But GEO600 will be the first to operate first at design sensitivity and has sophisticated instrumentation that could enable it to be the first to make a detection.

In practice, to be sure that the event is real and not a tremor or an instrument failure, more than one instrument is needed. If the same event is recorded at the same time by GEO600, the two LIGO instruments, and a fourth detector being built by the French and Italians, it is reasonably sure to be a gravitational wave. The British teams involved come from the Universities of Glasgow and Wales at Cardiff, and are collaborating with two German groups, at the University of Hanover and the Albert Einstein Institute in Potsdam. Professor Bernard Schutz, who directs both the Cardiff and Potsdam groups, says: "The first detection of gravitational waves will be a momentous event for physics. But the real payoff will be the insight they give us into what is happening in parts of the universe that only gravitational waves give us any chance of seeing."

There's a number to remember

TODAY's copy of *The Times* carries a number with profound resonances for those who think in systems other than decimal. The fact that we have reached issue number 65,536 may seem unremarkable, save as evidence of an exceedingly long life. But in binary notation, the language spoken by computers, 65,536 is written as 1 0000 0000 0000 0000.

Binary notation, of course, is based on the number two. In familiar decimal notation, each digit reading from the right represents a value ten times greater; in binary, the factor is two. So the binary number of today's issue can be read, from the right, as no twos, no fours, no eights, no 16s, and so on ... until finally we get one digit, which represents two to the power of 16 — or 65,536 to you and me.

I am indebted to David Charlesworth, a computer specialist from Woking, for pointing out the significance of today's number. "Since *The Times* is a technologically orientated paper you will already have spotted it," he wrote rather flatteringly. But I'm sorry to admit that without his intervention it would have entirely passed me by. He says it is emblazoned on his mind from programming the IBM PC, which uses a 16-bit address.

Fish probe for human genes

AN 18-INCH Japanese fish that can blow itself up into a spiky ball is proving useful to Glaxo Wellcome scientists searching for the human genes responsible for migraine and other diseases.

The puffer fish — *Takifugu rubripes*, or fugu for short — has genes very like those of man, but more tidily packed. The fugu genome is about 7.5 times smaller than ours, largely because the fish carries much less "junk" DNA — the bits that lie between the genes and have no apparent purpose.

The beauty of this, says Dr Mike Trower, is that they can take markers linked to disease genes in man and use them as probes to find the corresponding markers in fugu.

Since there will be less intervening material between the marker and the gene in fugu, it will be easier to locate the gene than it is in man. Then they can use the fugu gene as a probe to pin down the site of the corresponding human gene.

So far, they have used the fish to map part of human chromosome 14, which is linked to early-onset Alzheimer's disease. They have found three genes linked in the same order in fugu as in man — but occurring along a length of DNA which is 50 times shorter. This has made it possible to slash the time needed to map the genes.

RONALD GRANT

It's good to talk . . . an example of female networking, from the film *A Day to Remember*. Two thirds of conversations are about social topics

The evolution of gossip

Did humanity develop on a torrent of chat? Nigel Hawkes reports on an intriguing theory

When men and women gather together, the men often steer the talk towards work, religion or politics. Yet when men talk to men, or women to women, these subjects hardly get a look-in.

What is going on? Professor Robin Dunbar of Liverpool University, the author of a new book on language, sees the process as a vocal "lek". Animals such as antelopes or birds — including peacocks — pose and preen themselves in display areas called leks in an attempt to attract mates.

The females wander from one male to another, inspecting the goods on offer, and making their choice. Much the same process is going on around the dinner table as the men compete to present their views on John Major's leadership with all the flourish of a peacock displaying his tail. That's males all over: lekking is in their genes.

What men talk *about* is another clue. Studies of the content of conversations made by Professor Dunbar's group show that both sexes spend about two thirds of the time talking about social topics — gossiping, to put it bluntly. But while women tend to gossip about other people's social experiences, men gossip mainly about their own.

"The women are engaged in networking, the men in advertising," says Professor Dunbar. This difference, he believes, sheds light on the very origin of language itself.

He began his research as an expert on primates, the group to which *Homo sapiens* belongs. If you measure the brain size of different primates, as Richard Byrne and Andrew Whiten of St Andrews University did, you find that the size of the neocortex is closely correlated with the size of the groups in which the animals normally congregate. The larger the groups, the larger the neocortex.

"Primates who live in groups need to solve complex social problems," Professor Dunbar explains. "They spend a lot of time grooming each other. This seems to be the main mechanism for bonding primate groups together. It cements alliances and makes them possible."

But there is a problem. The larger the group becomes, the more time is needed for grooming to keep everybody's relationships in order. In baboons and chimpanzees, which typically form groups of about 50 to 55 individuals, the time spent in grooming is high.

If human beings, with their bigger brains and bigger social groups, were to cement their relationships in the same way, a whopping 40 per cent of their time would be spent in grooming, leaving perilously little left for feeding, travelling and other vital activities. "No primate group that has ever been studied spends more than 20 per cent of the time grooming," Professor Dunbar says. "That seems to be the upper limit."

Enter language, a far more efficient way of oiling the social wheels than grooming. In the "social brain" hypothesis which Professor Dunbar champions, language evolved not to make men more effective hunters, but so that their wives could gossip. "Our ancestors could not have evolved without a new mechanism for grooming — and that was language," he says.

> Language evolved not to make men more effective hunters, but so that their wives could gossip

Language has certain key features that enable it to function in this way, he argues. You can talk to several people at once, while you can groom only one. It can also convey a lot more information.

"If the main function of grooming for monkeys and apes is to build up trust and personal knowledge of allies, then language has an added advantage," he writes in his new book, *Grooming, Gossip and the Evolution of Language*. "It allows you to say a great deal about yourself, your likes and dislikes, the kind of person you are; it also allows you to convey in numerous subtle ways something about your reliability as an ally and a friend."

This analysis of the origins of language may seem rather a comedown compared with earlier claims that it evolved to aid hunting ("there's a herd of bison down by the lake") or to exchange stories about the origin of the tribe or supernatural forces. But the way we use language today seems to back it up.

In both men and women, two thirds of conversations are not about BSE, the state of the economy or other important matters, but about social interaction. "This shows that these things are terribly important in real life, although we disparage them as gossip," he says.

But language did not come free. It requires a huge chunk of the brain to make it work, with a very high energy cost. The only way to save that energy was by reducing the size of the gut. Studies of a wide range of primates show that brain and gut are inversely related: big gut, small brain, and vice versa.

But to manage with a smaller gut, man had to find a food rich enough to provide the necessary energy without needing endless yards of intestine to digest it. This was meat. If so, man's carnivorous nature is intimately bound up with his command of language.

So, it would seem, is the size of the social group in which people function best. Plotting brain size against group size for primates, it appears that the best natural group for human beings is about 150.

This, says Professor Dunbar, fits in pretty well with human experience. "It is a typical village size in traditional societies, it is the size of the smallest military unit, the company, in most armies, and it is also roughly the number of people most of us send Christmas cards to, if you remember that most cards go to families, not individuals."

Of course, in modern societies people live in much larger groups than this, millions-strong if they live in cities. "But 150 is about the number of people we all know well enough to join uninvited in a bar, or ask a favour of without embarrassment," he says. "It is also roughly the number of living descendants you would expect a couple to have produced after four generations at the birth rates observed in peasant societies."

Religious communities also converge on this magic number. The Hutterites of North America have communities that are always split into two when they reach 150; larger than that, they say, and it becomes difficult to control members by peer pressure.

The problem with modern communities, Professor Dunbar argues, is that as they grow much larger than this ideal number it becomes harder for people to see why they should continue paying their dues. "Free-riders" or "social cheaters" are the bane of such communities: people who exploit other people's willingness to conform.

In the short term, it often pays to cheat. Who hasn't parked on a double yellow line, despite knowing that keeping the road clear of parked cars is in the interest of the community? "People who don't buy their round", in Professor Dunbar's phrase, can cause any society to split up. One of the functions of language, and especially of gossip, is to keep such people in line: though, if so, it doesn't seem to be doing an especially good job.

> The women are engaged in social networking, while the men are simply advertising themselves

The answer, he suggests at the end of his book, may be to recognise that we evolved to flourish in much smaller groups than we experience today. Fortunately, our behaviour is capable of adaptation. Recognising human limitations and how they can be circumvented, if necessary by recreating the kinds of social environment in which we function best, could make the world seem a less alienating place, he concludes.

- Grooming, Gossip and the Evolution of Language *is published by Faber on April 1 (£15.99).*

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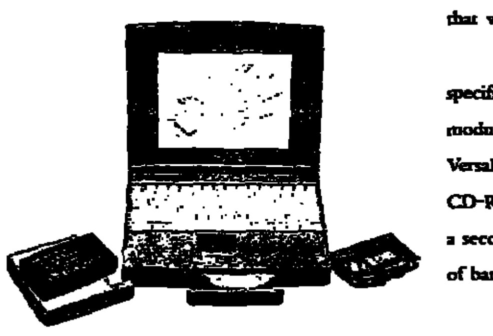

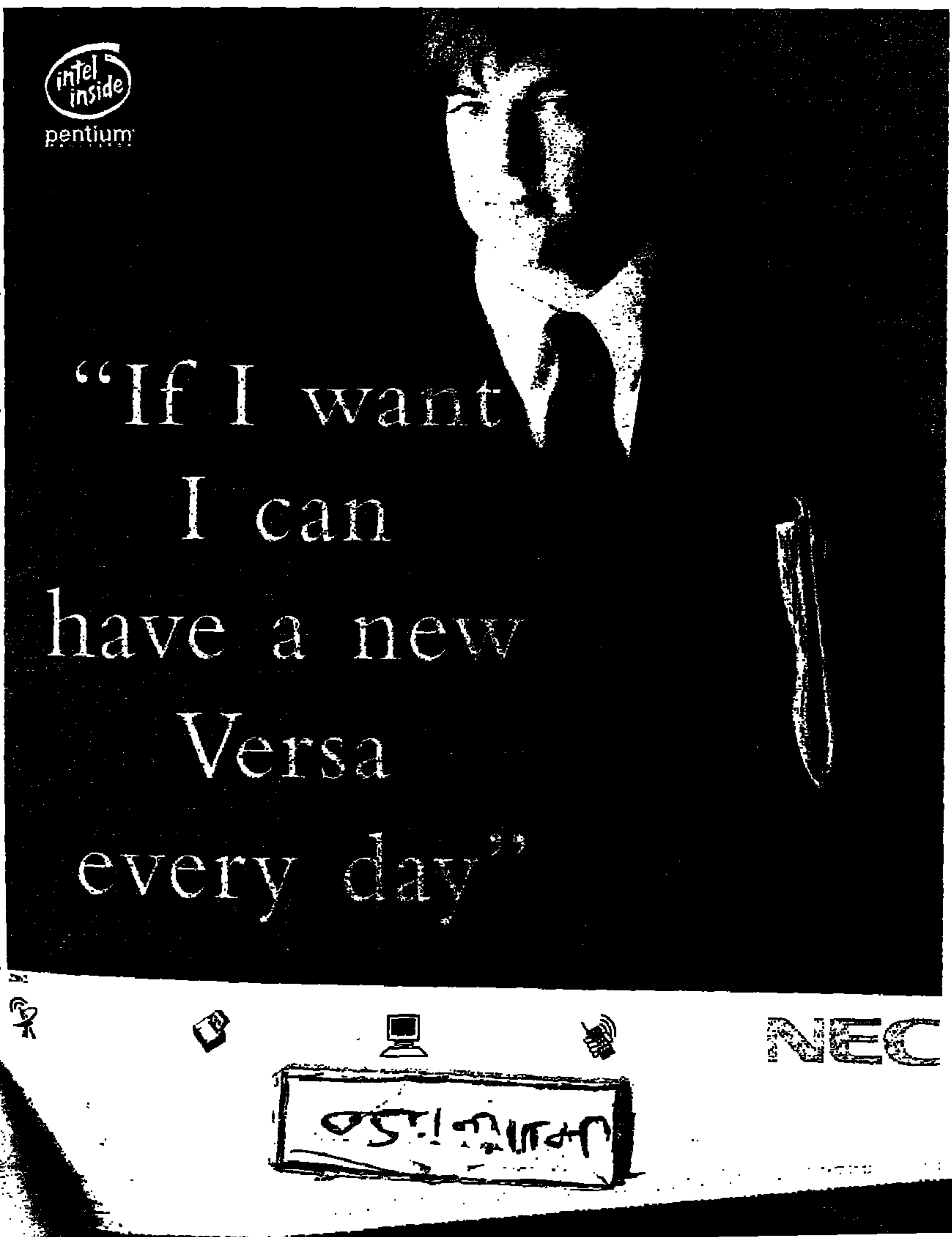
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Why America loves our Emma

As the film world prepares for another orgy of self-congratulation, Giles Whittell investigates an unlikely romance

Emma Thompson will know tonight if she has won another Oscar to join the one she already keeps in her downstairs loo. The chances are good, since she has been nominated in two categories for *Sense and Sensibility* — but even if she misses out it will be nothing personal.

As the Oscars remind her almost every year, in America she is among friends. At a book signing she gave in Los Angeles to promote her screenplay for *Sense and Sensibility*, first-edition collectors turned up at the crack of dawn.

By lunchtime, a queue of 600 admirers snaked its way round the block. The manager said only Colin Powell would have drawn a bigger crowd.

When she missed a prize at Cannes last year for her title role in *Carrington*, one of the country's most respected critics said his personal consolation was that "no prize is good enough for her". And when *People* magazine voted her one of the world's 50 most beautiful people, its editors threw in for good measure Christopher Reeve's opinion that she combined the "humour and style of Katharine Hepburn and the artistic integrity of Vanessa Redgrave".

This is not Sharon Stone or Meryl Streep. It is our Emm, the head-girlish former Footlight with the imperfect nose and the expressive top lip, who bombed eight years ago with a television comedy series.

Thompson is still mocked in Britain as a luvvie and a frump and a smug one at that. Yet on her every trip to America she is showered with flattery and accolades. She is revered as one of the finest actresses of her generation, beloved as a personality.

She is also considered sexy — not just because she is English and a movie star. Why else would *Vanity Fair* persuade her to be photographed more *décolletée* than Sharon Stone herself?

In 1993, she won her first acting Oscar for her role as Margaret Schlegel in *Howard's End*. She was nominated twice the following year, for *The Remains of the Day* and *In the Name of the Father*. Tonight she stands to win two more gold statues — one for her screenplay, the other for her performance as Elinor Dashwood. Such adoration has a way of making people feel welcome. We should not be surprised if, sooner or later, she considers joining her fellow expats in the hills of Southern California.

Not long after her success with *Howard's End*, Thompson agreed to an interview with the comedian Robbie Coltrane. In it he mentioned a *Sunday Times* article deriding her comfy Hampstead socialism and her tendency to be gushingly nice about other actors — the defining characteristic of a luvvie.

Coltrane muttered that perhaps Emma didn't want to talk about it, but Emma was happy to explain that "it's sort of a national characteristic among the British to take the piss out of any public figure who offers the slightest excuse. This is true, of course. We love taking people down a peg or two, especially those born with more than their fair share of natural advantages."

Thompson with her Oscar in 1993

But we also hate being made to squirm. She made us do this with *Thompson*. Her stunningly pretentious one-woman comedy series in 1988 was so unfunny one had to assume its star was bored with praise (for her work in *Fortunes of War* and *Look Back in Anger*) and wanted some punishment instead.

The tabloids duly invited her to roll up her "smug, self-regarding sketches" about sexism and semantics, and "stick them up her baggy boiler suit". The wider public was not much more impressed. Ratings were dreadful and the series died after its first short season.

Thompson went on to tell Coltrane that Britain was a country "where they admire failure". If so, her series ought to have made her an overnight sensation. In fact we kicked her when she was down, sneering that the comeback she launched the following year as Lady Anne in *Henry V* was all thanks to its star, her new husband, Kenneth Branagh.

The truth is not that we admire her failure but that we envy her success. How could an ordinary-looking woman who walks and talks not unlike the rest of us win so much fame and money from doing just that? That she is an avowed blue-stocking — not hip, nor dangerously self-destructive — only makes it worse. Why her?

One could moan on about her now-defunct marriage to Ken, and about the cliquishness of their joint efforts, from *Much Ado About Nothing* to *Peter's Friends*. But what really rankles her fellow Brits is her global bankability and the way she makes it look so easy. It is not easy. If it were we would all be making millions letting the camera dance over our nuanced, Merchant Ivory expressions. Deep down, we know this. Deep down, we know she has a lucrative talent for acting that the rest of us lack.

In America, of such qualities are heroes made. Talented, successful people are put on pedestals to be emulated or at least admired, and are left there until brought down by scandal or prolonged bad form. The cult of celebrity immunises them from excessive scrutiny of their private lives and politics unless they court it, and so far Thompson (unlike Hugh Grant) has not. Neither has failure toppled her.

It helps that *Thompson* — the series — was never shown in America. It is also true that her peculiarly earthy English wit can seem pungent and exotic in the multiplexes of the Midwest but not at all at home.

Thus can *Ladies' Home Journal* enthuse that "sitting in front of a spectacular sunset at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, [Thompson] is a vision of classic beauty". In *Sense and Sensibility*, Stanley Kaufman writes in *The New Republic*, she is "a magnificent acting talent" whose "power of inner transformation is so acute as to be almost uncanny". According to *Time* magazine she is simply "dear Ms Thompson".

Tonight's event has a power probably matched only by Wimbledon to anoint a couple of single-minded individuals the toast of the globe for a few fleeting hours.

PHIL LOFTUS/CAPITAL PICTURES

Up for the Oscar again: in America Emma Thompson is a sexy superstar — in Britain she has not altogether lived down her reputation as a smug luvvie

Thompson has a good chance of being one of those individuals again this year. Should she win, even Fleet Street might decide the time is right for a gruff but very British reconciliation. Thompson herself would not be surprised. As she said recently: "I have a rather strange, familiar relationship with the press in England. They're like very, very grumpy parents."

Both of the Mandelas deserve our sympathy, says Tunku Varadarajan

We should pity Winnie, too

All the world was in court with Nelson Mandela last week as he squelched through a messy divorce from Winnie, his wife for 38 years. There was no contest in it: everyone's Desert Island statesman versus a convicted kidnapper, a proven adulteress, a vulgar spendthrift, a one-time advocate of the "necklace".

Saint versus sinner, said the more polished headlines. Nelson free from Evil Winnie, yapped the tabloids. But isn't the story more complex than that? Are we right to detest Winnie Mandela as freely as we do?

There can be no argument with the view that Mr Mandela is "good" and Mrs Mandela "bad". Yet his greatness and her decline are not unrelated. When Mr Mandela married Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela in June 1958, Winnie's father gave warning that their marriage "in such difficult" times would be unremittingly tested. It was to prove to be a merciless trial.

Mr Mandela loved his wife. Take these words from *Long Walk to Freedom*, his autobiography published in 1994: "Her spirit, her passion, her youth, her courage, her wilfulness: I felt all of these things the moment I first saw her."

But only four years after their wedding, Mr Mandela was imprisoned for "treason": he was released, in one of the most compelling moments of our time, 27 years later. If those years were grim, they were equally dark for his wife.

At the trial on Tuesday, Mr Mandela said something that must not go unchallenged. To his wife's contention that she had suffered and "sacrificed everything for their marriage", he countered coldly that "there were many women in this country who suffered far more". This is not true.

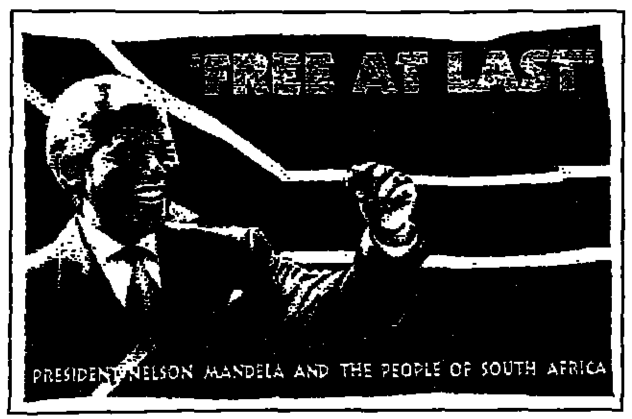
Winnie was bounded like no other South African. She had married a man who "became a myth" — to use Mr Mandela's words — and no trick was spared to break her spirit. In the end that spirit was broken, but not in the way the authorities intended.

The persecution drained her of humanity, putting in its place a bitterness that found expression in vengeance. "The struggle" became an alibi for every crime; "the struggle" became the cheerless drug of the Mother of the Nation.

The nobility of her husband may have put her on the path of evil, but it was a path on which she chose to stay. Mr Mandela has understood this all along, holding himself responsible for the onset of her moral rot, but unwilling to accept the ugliness of Winnie's hubris. When he looked at her in court once it was as if to say: Winnie, you have lost the gift of self-disgust, and for that I must divorce you.

He will be a less lonely man now. His imprisonment to Winnie — an imprisonment to the pains of his conscience — has ended. There can be no loneliness greater than that of a loveless marriage.

The Old Man will now enter one void as he leaves another. "I cannot say for certain if there is such a thing as love at first sight, but I do know that the moment I first glimpsed Winnie Nomzamo, I knew that I wanted to have her as my wife." He saw her first at a bus stop in Johannesburg: he divorced her nearly 40 years later in the same city. One is relieved, now, at Mr Mandela's freedom. But is it so wrong to feel sorry for Winnie?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Matthew Parris

He caught my eye, then he caught me catching his eye. Has anyone looked into this eye-catching subject?

How do we know another person is looking at us? Before shrugging your shoulders and replying that the answer, obviously, is that we can see if they are, think for a moment what a remarkable perception it is, the perception that someone (or something) has caught your eye. It is unique amongst perceptions.

You can "see" (for instance) a field, or a street or a cat crossing the street towards you. But to say that you see the cat looking at you describes a visual picture which differs only in the tiniest respect from the visual picture in which the same cat is not looking at you. The difference between these two pictures consists of one thing only: the precise location within the cat's eyes of the irises and pupils.

Between the scene in which the approaching cat is looking at you and the scene in which it is not, there are absolutely no other differences. Yet any child attempting a "spot the difference" competition in a magazine would light immediately on this discrepancy, while he might search in vain for a much bigger one — such as the appearance in one picture of a chimney, absent from the other picture.

If research were conducted, it would show that on viewing a scene we go quickly to the eyes of any living creature within it, making an urgent and very, very precise judgment about the position of the irises with respect to the rim of the socket within which they sit.

How precise? Well, try standing shoulder to shoulder with someone and facing a third person 17 yards away. The person at a distance would not need to move his head, only his eyes, to look from one of you to the other. Which of you is he looking at? It is amazing from how great a distance we can judge this. I have tried some simple experiments over the weekend, and established that in a good light 17 yards is roughly the distance within which this judgment can be made with accuracy.

By means of a rough test I have established, too, that, standing in the middle of a square room, facing one wall and keeping your head still you can just about focus, "from the corner of your eye", on someone in both corners of the room, to your left and your right. The sweep, of about 90 degrees, is the approximate focusable range.

Two people measure about a yard across, shoulder to shoulder. I think this means that without moving his head, a man can encompass a visual sweep through an arch of some 25 people, standing shoulder to shoulder 17 yards away, *and each one of them can tell when he is looking at him or her.*

This in turn means that at 17 yards, the human eye can distinguish and identify within the eyes of another creature at least 25 different positions of the pupil within the whites of the eyes, and that is moving only horizontally. As my weekend guests drew the line at standing one above another on a ladder I have been unable to determine the vertical sweep of accurate "is he looking at me?" vision. If it is half as extensive, that yields a total of some 300 distinguishable locations for the iris.

In other words, if you are looking at a wall of 300 faces 17 yards away, you could tell which pair among 600 eyes was looking at you. And each of those 300 pairs would know immediately when you were looking at them.

An element among my readers will say "so what?" to that. But of those who, like me, find it a wonderful and fascinating thing, I ask how it can be achieved? Shortsighted friends say that the ability to discern when someone is looking at you survives blurred vision quite well. You may not be able to read the number on the approaching bus, yet you know that the driver is looking at you.

> Amateur research shows that at 17 yards the human eye can distinguish 300 positions of the iris

How it is achieved I cannot say. Why it is achieved is obvious. A moment's reflection on Darwinian principles of survival suggests that, for both the hunter and the hunted, to know, quickly, whether one is being observed must be critical. Life depends on it. This may explain the absolutely gripping nature of the sensation that someone is looking at us. Indeed, unless we are talking to one another (in which case eye-contact is expected), the knowledge that one is being looked at distracts us in so subversive a way that it is hard to concentrate on anything else.

To watch someone who does not know that he is being watched brings an almost primal feeling of personal advantage. To be watched, we know not why, profoundly undermines. To suspect we are being watched without being able to prove it (as any paranoic will tell you) devastates.

And to exchange glances — to experience the sensation of looking at another as he or she looks at you — must be, in any category of familiar human moments, one of the most basic: it can be of spine-tingling power. Two fine calculations, rapidly and unconsciously accomplished, by two brains, as to the precise locations within four tiny white spaces of four, brown, blue, green or hazel dots with black pinpricks in the middle. "He caught my eye."

The species barrier may not protect us completely, but this disease may have existed for centuries

Let's not all go mad about BSE

William Rees-Mogg

Diseases come and go, and their history is obscure. There is still controversy over the real cause of the Plague of Athens, despite its importance to the history of the ancient world; we know that syphilis was epidemic at the Siege of Naples in the 1490s, but cannot be certain whether it was taken to America by Columbus in 1492, or brought back from there; we do not even know for sure whether, as seems likely, the HIV virus crossed the species barrier from monkey to man. We should, however, make the general assumption that diseases have a long history, and exist for centuries before they are accurately identified. Of course, diseases do transmute and can become much milder, or more dangerous.

The dictionary seems to suggest that BSE itself may always have existed among cattle. Since the 16th century, a disease, or a group of diseases, known as "the staggers" have been recorded. The Oxford English Dictionary defines "staggers" as "a name for various diseases affecting domestic animals, of which a staggering gait is a symptom". The first citation is from 1577, "if he [a bullock] has the staggers, he wyl looke very red about the eyes". The mid-19th-century veterinary writer W.C.C. Martin, in his book *Ox*, refers to "inflammation of the brain, phrenzy, mad staggers or sough and apoplexy".

"Staggers" appears in Samuel Johnson's great Dictionary of 1755, though he calls it "a kind of horse apoplexy": he quotes Shakespeare, "his horse starks boiled with the staggers". No doubt the Oxford Dictionary is right that the staggers were symptomatic of various diseases, but nevertheless it seems probable that BSE was one of them, and existed as a rare disease in cattle, as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease has been in human beings, for a long time. The comparable disease in sheep, scrapie, has of course been much more common, and is more freely transmitted between sheep. Pasture land can become infected with the scrapie agent, but there is no evidence of cross-infection of this sort by the BSE agent, which passes either by eating infected material or possibly by breeding from infected cattle.

The point is not merely an academic one. No one can prove that the "mad staggers" was the same as "mad cow" disease, but in some cases it probably was. If that is so, human beings have been eating BSE-infected animals for hundreds of years. If the BSE agent easily crossed the species barrier and infected humans, one would expect there to have been many clusters of Creutzfeldt-Jakob, in families and even in whole villages which had consumed the same infected carcass. In pre-20th-century medicine the condition could not have been precisely diagnosed, but the clusters themselves would have been remarked upon — it might well have been thought that this was a hereditary disease, concentrated on particular families and communities.

In Somerset it is in any case widely believed that the present epidemic did not start in the mid 1980s, but some years earlier. There is anecdotal evidence of cows suffering from what would now be diagnosed as BSE in the late 1970s, and these cases were not confined to the West Country. No one knows what the latency period of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is in human beings. Most infections which have a long latency period, such as syphilis or Aids, have a very variable one — the onset of full-blown Aids after the initial HIV infection certainly varies from less than three to more than 20 years. If BSE-infected cattle from the early stages of the present epidemic were being eaten, wholly without precautions, by human beings as long as 20 years ago, then one would expect a human epidemic to be only too evident by now, if human beings were highly susceptible. There were only 40 cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob in 1995.

The ten cases which have changed the view that BSE is most unlikely to infect human beings are paralleled by a small epidemic in cats, although there does not seem to have been a comparable epidemic in dogs, which must also have eaten their share of BSE-infected meat and offal. The cat epidemic has been a small one — fewer than 200 infected cats seem to have been reported — and is now rapidly trailing off, with about one case a month. The epidemic in cttle itself is also now past its peak, though the total numbers have been much larger, and the epidemic has persisted longer than was originally expected.

I suspect that the cattle epidemic may eventually prove to be similar to the recorded epidemic of Creutzfeldt-Jakob in New Guinea. That was caused by cannibalism. Until the mid 1980s, cattle were being fed the meat of other cattle in their protein feeds. They were at the same time being fed sheep protein, which in some cases would inevitably have contained the scrapie agent. The rapid spread of the epidemic suggests that it is rather more likely to have been an indigenous cattle disease than a cross-species sheep disease. Cows have historically been able to crop scrapie-infected pastures quite safely, where sheep become infected. The infection of some zoo animals, cats and possibly the ten human beings, does suggest that the BSE agent may be able in some cases to cross the species barrier; nevertheless, the history of the disease, probably existing in sporadic form for centuries, and in epidemic form for 20 years, suggests that the risk to humans is likely to prove low. There were only four suspected cases in 1995, which is at least ten and probably 20 years after the first exposure of substantial human populations to the BSE agent. It seems likely that the species barrier is still a substantial safeguard, even if it proves not to have been a perfect one.

Nevertheless, people will feel safe eating beef only when the whole British herd is BSE-free. These ten cases have raised a doubt, and no one can be sure whether the human epidemic will prove non-existent, tiny, as it has been so far, small, as it has been with cats, or larger. If the cross-species infection reached the same level in human beings as in cats, the deaths from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease might rise from about the present 50 spontaneous cases to about 200 cases a year, or something on that scale.

The experience of local farms in Somerset seems to support the view that the animal feed was responsible for the epidemic. A small local dairy farm has always bred its own cows and grown its own feed: it has not had a single case of infection. Another somewhat larger farm used to buy in some feed: early in the epidemic it had three cases of BSE, all in cows which had eaten feed from a single delivery. This farm too has decided to rely entirely on home-grown feed, and has had no recurrence of the disease. As I understand it, there have been no cases of BSE on organic farms, except among bought-in cattle. It is safe to say that nobody will ever again try to turn herbivorous cows into cannibal carnivores.

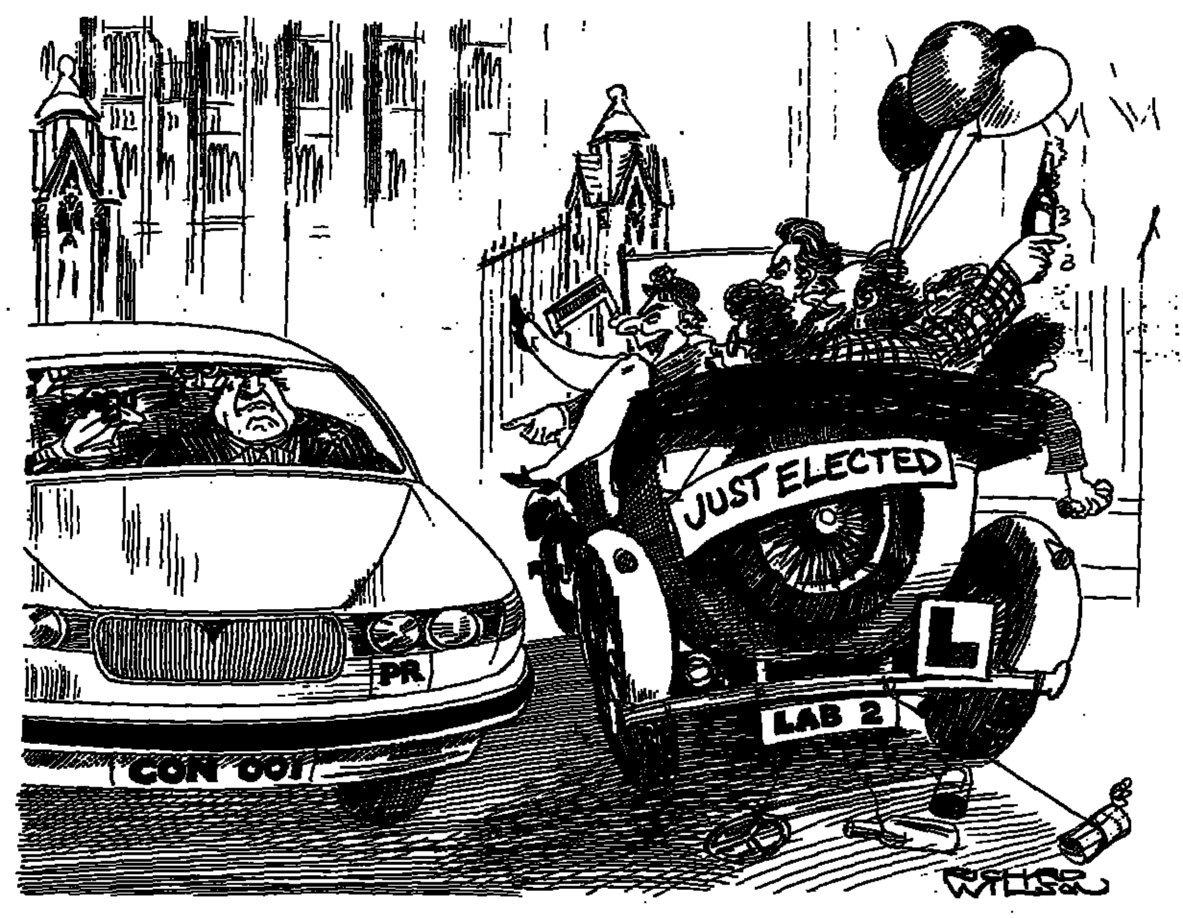
The Government ought now to concentrate on producing a BSE-free national herd as quickly as possible. Only when that has been achieved will other countries be willing to import British beef, or will British consumers feel entirely safe in buying it. The evidence is that much the largest reservoir of BSE infection is among the older dairy cows. A policy of culling them, with full compensation and not necessarily all at once, followed by post-mortem examinations to establish whether they were showing early symptoms of the disease, could speed the ending of the epidemic. That at least ought to be done.

At the same time, disease-free herds should be identified. No doubt there has been evasion and some downright lying — otherwise a policy of separating the disease-free from the high-risk herds would be straightforward. Yet the Government's objectives should be those that commonsense suggests. First we need to establish beyond doubt which herds are already clear. Then we need to establish that the epidemic is over, and that Britain is clear of BSE.

The ins and outs of power

Peter Riddell

on the prospects for a Parliament without true commoners



After the next election, the typical new Tory MP will be a male former special adviser to a minister, with Eurosceptic views. The new Labour MP is, for the first time, as likely to be female as male, and will have strong local connections and broadly loyalist instincts. The new Tories will have been trained to serve in government, while the new Labour members will have almost no knowledge of Whitehall. So the rival groups of new MPs will be prepared for precisely the opposite of what each is likely to face.

The look of the post-election Commons is becoming clear. The vast majority of candidates to replace retiring MPs, to fight winnable marginals and in the new seats created by boundary changes have already been picked. Further retirements and selections will not alter the pattern shown by a new analysis from the Public Policy Unit, a political consultancy. This has been prepared by Andrew Lansley, former head of the Conservative Research Department and now candidate for Cambridgeshire South; David Gardner, who masterminded Labour's successful handling of the boundary changes; and Paul Wheeler, Labour's former elections co-ordinator. If Labour gets the 4.3 per cent switch of votes from the Tories since the 1992 election that it needs for a bare overall majority, there will be at least 149 new MPs, a quarter of the Commons. This would include 84 new Labour MPs and 55 new Tories.

A third of the new arrivals, and half the new Labour members, will be women. Labour's defeat in the courts over all-women shortlists makes little difference. But there may be only four new women Tory MPs, roughly matching retirements. The total number of women MPs is likely to rise to well over 100, compared with 62 now and as few as 19 after the 1979 election. The feminisation of the Commons, particularly on the Labour side, is already making it less of a male-dominated club — reinforcing the changes in its working hours and practices. In that respect, it is becoming more representative of the electorate as a whole.

But in other crucial ways the Commons is becoming less representative. Not only are fewer and fewer working-class people being elected, but more and more new MPs are already full-time politicians, whether as special advisers, political researchers or consultants, full-time councillors or union officials. The shift I identified in my 1993 book *Honest Opportunism* has accelerated. Of the roughly 50 new candidates picked in seats which the Tories would retain if Labour won a bare overall majority, half are already professional politicians. This includes ten former special advisers or members of the Downing Street policy unit, three former heads of department at Conservative Central Office and ten former MPs. Three of the four women are already career politicians (a member of the European Parliament, a former MEP and a former special adviser).

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

By contrast, only two — David Prior in Norfolk North, son of Jim Prior, the former minister and chairman of GEC, and Owen Patterson in Shropshire North — have direct connections with manufacturing, as opposed to financial services or consultancy. There will be eight lawyers, but only two farmers.

While a majority of the new Tories will be London-based and work in the private sector, most of the new Labour MPs will have local, non-metropolitan roots and strong links to the public sector. Connections with Labour's leaders seem a positive disadvantage. By contrast with the early 1960s, when right-wing unions ensured the selection of allies of Hugh Gaitskell, Tony Blair is able to pull few strings — although he may be able to just before the election, when the national executive can impose candidates. The one-member, one-vote method of selecting candidates, strongly backed by Mr Blair, has so far favoured people with local affiliations. Only about a fifth of Labour candidates in target seats are already professional politicians in the way that half the Tories are, but many more work in local government or in self-employed jobs which allow them to pursue their primary interest of becoming MPs. On this broader definition, at least half of the new Labour MPs will be career politicians.

The ideological impact is harder to assess, in part because most candidates and MPs do not have firm, or at any rate consistent, views. Few local parties set an ideological test in selections. Plausibility is more important than polity. One jaundiced veteran said local activists wanted to hear their bourgeois, or petty-bourgeois, prejudices articulated in a respectable way. Assaults on the liberal establishment are applauded, as are assertions of traditional Tory values on the family, law and order and taxes. Advocating more privatisation and similar radicalism goes down less well. None of this is any guide as to how future MPs will behave, with the crucial exception of European issues. Many knighted pro-Europeans of the Heath generation are being replaced by Euro-sceptics.

On the Labour side, the Public Policy Unit reckons that most of the future MPs are likely to be loyalist, as most of the 1992 intake who won Tory marginals have been. They have backed Mr Blair's "new" Labour approach because it has worked for them. There may be only two obvious recruits to the hard Left in winnable seats (Ann Cryer, widow of the former MP, in Keighley, and John McDonnell in Hayes and Harlington). Many others may, of course, be going along with the prevailing loyalist fashion, and their "old" Labour sympathies, particularly over the public sector, might surface later.

As important as guessing the new ideological shape of the Commons is the further advance of the career politician. Despite pledges about recruiting more candidates with broader experience, the British political class is becoming narrower — and, apart from the growing number of women MPs, less representative of the electorate as a whole. This will do nothing to check the public's growing disillusionment with Parliament.

THE TIMES DIARY

Pole position

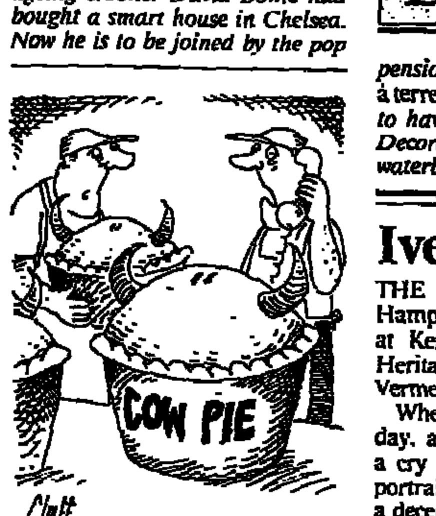
POLISH aristocrats in London cannot contain themselves at the prospect of the Queen's visit today to their homeland. They are lobbying once more for a king of their own, and proposing the Duke of Kent as their candidate — and I understand that he has been brushing up on his Polish.

The prospect may seem fanciful, but, as I explained when émigrés first mooted the idea of a king last year, the Polish parliament used to elect its monarch, and Poland's wartime leader in exile, General Sikorski, put up his great friend the then Duke of Kent for the throne.

Unfortunately, the Duke was killed in an air crash in 1942, but London's Poles hope that his son might step into the breach some 200 years after the last King of Poland, Stanislaus II, died in a Russian prison.

The current Duke seems to be taken with the notion. I'm told that he is now being given Polish lessons by the delightful dauber Basha Kaczmarowska Hamilton (client: the Duchess of York) as she paints his portrait. But Basha, usually effusive, proves bashful about the Duke. She refuses to breathe a word concerning her noble client and potential monarch.

● *Last week, I reported that the ageing crooner David Bowie had bought a smart house in Chelsea. Now he is to be joined by the pop pensioner Bill Wyman, whose* pied à terre *in Upper Cheyne Row is said to have cost a mere £2.5 million. Decorators are on standby with waterbeds and ceiling mirrors.*



"It's Desperate Dan — he's turned vegetarian"

Iveagh league

THE CHATTERING classes of Hampstead are appalled by events at Kenwood House, an English Heritage property which boasts a Vermeer in its art collection.

When the house reopened yesterday, after a ten-day spring-clean, a cry went up that the bust and portrait of the 1st Lord Iveagh, a decent chap who bequeathed the house and its contents to the nation in 1927, had disappeared.

English Heritage lackeys tried desperately to weather the storm, explaining that the items had been moved to another room upstairs. But the room transpires to be little more than a staff annexe, rarely visited by the public. Friends of Kenwood now dread the truly gruesome prospect of the missing bust being replaced by one of Jocelyn Stevens, pugnacious chairman of English Heritage.

Tsk, tsk

FARMERS wondering what to do with their cows may care to spare a thought for Tony Edwards of Hull, who is intent on disposing of a herd of life-sized, pink plastic elephants.

Mr Edwards had hoped to embellish the roof of his children's entertainment centre with the elephants, which he bought second-hand for £5,000. But town planners have refused permission for his adornments, so he is parting with them, as well as with six giant frogs and two 14ft spacemen.

● *Despite escaping serious censure at the hands of his Leominster constituents, the platinum-blond Tory Peter Temple-Morris has a new sobriquet, as a result of his flirtation with new Labour. Once regarded fondly by Tory colleagues as the "silver fox", he is now dismissed as the "silver rat".*

Princely sum

TIGGY LEGGE-BOURKE appears to have prevailed upon her boss for a little assistance with an art show at the family home in Powys. On Easter Day and Easter Monday, her mother, Margaret, will invite the milling hordes into her home in Crickhowell to see works of art by the likes of David Shepherd and John Ward.

Getting in a Tiggy

But pride of place at the exhibition, to raise money for the Royal Welsh Show, will be given to a watercolour by the Prince of Wales. "It's not for sale," says Margaret, "but we'll take sealed bids for one of his lithographs."

Natal lot

CHIEF Mangosutho Buthelezi has turned to Britain for help. The head of the Inkatha Freedom Party has looked up the high priest of Westminster's political lobbyists, Ian Greer, for assistance with his local election campaign.

Along with Brendan Bruce, Margaret Thatcher's former director of communications, and James Pryor, one-time head of presentation at Central Office, Greer has been electioneering in KwaZulu/Natal.

Speaking from Durban, he admits that he is unused to South African politics: "At a public meeting in Britain you might expect 15 to turn up, but here we have to cater for an audience of 25,000." Buthelezi is expected to address the final campaign rally on the eve of polling day. A mere 300,000 people are expected to attend, some of whom will walk for up to five days for the privilege of witnessing Greer and Bruce in traditional Zulu costume. Better be good.

Buthelezi in mufti

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Government should regulate farming, not run it

A heavy burden rests on the Health Secretary's shoulders today. The decision by the hamburger chain McDonald's to abandon British beef and the suggestion, however speculative, that BSE may have spread to lamb, or even pasture, have made Stephen Dorrell's task of calming public opinion all the more difficult. Mr Dorrell will be well supplied with scientific evidence when he faces the House of Commons this afternoon to make a statement on BSE, but almost more precious than data and statistical speculation will be wisdom, proportion and a preparedness to see the State in future be less the manager and more the watchman.

Mr Dorrell should place the threat to health in perspective. The real madness would be to succumb to hysteria. If BSE has led directly to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in human beings then victims are likely already to be infected. Steps taken since 1989 have lessened the risk of infection spreading through the food chain. There is a demand now for the banging shut of gates long after the bull has bolted. Instead, a judicous assessment of what risk remains should be combined with a cooller look at the future of our food industry. That review should consider the conflict inherent in the Government's role as guardian of the nation's health and under-writer of the farmer's wealth.

It would be wrong to underplay the importance of further appropriate safety measures, but attempts to reduce a risk already mitigated by prudent action should not be interpreted as a validation of the fears provoked by the most inflammatory. A balance must be struck between acting, quickly and transparently, to identify and isolate what proven danger there is and preventing an indiscriminate collapse of confidence in all British beef. The Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, appeared to accept such logic yesterday by acknowledging that the selective slaughter of older cattle may be necessary to minimise danger while stressing how small was the risk from most British beef.

McDonald's reaction, whatever its merits, at least displays the flexibility of capitalism at its rawest. The market can be a crude judge of sensitive questions but, ultimately, it does better than the most enlightened or efficient bureaucracy by devolving responsibility down to the consumer. Nevertheless, markets work effectively only when the consumer has a fair knowledge of the risks involved in any transaction. The Government's capacity to be believed when it, wisely, attempts to allay the more febrile reaction to food safety scares is undermined by its own entanglement in the management of agriculture.

Farming is, in effect, the last great nationalised industry. There are good reasons why any government should be wary of exposing it to the chillier blasts of competition. A measure of support may always be necessary to ensure the rural environment is thoughtfully cultivated. But massive intervention in agriculture, from Whitehall and Brussels, has created a culture of insulated prices and subsidy-driven development which has not always been in the best interests of consumer or countryside. Moreover, the perception that the Ministry of Agriculture is over-anxious to protect producers has weakened the whole Government's capacity to speak with authority when seeking to allay concern.

Tobacco is a far greater risk to health than beef, but its sale and consumption among adults, quite rightly, continues because the market supplies and the State warns. The preposterous complexities of Europe's common agricultural policy will make any withdrawal of government from intervening in the food business a slow, and complex, affair. But the market is already working to reward farmers who rear and butcher their meat in impeccable conditions. When public concern teeters on the edge of panic it is hard to take the long view but ministers should recognise that food scares can be better handled in future only by a clearer division of responsibility. The warning word is better heeded when it comes from those who trust to the invisible hand.

RIGHT AND MACKAY

The Lord Chancellor deserves support on divorce

Divorce is bad for children. They are twice as likely to have psychological problems as those whose parents have stayed together. They are likely to leave school earlier with fewer qualifications, to marry and have children earlier, to end up in a lower social class, and, most poignantly, to divorce themselves. Where children are involved, society should not allow divorce to be easy and, where break-up cannot be avoided, should try to mitigate its effects.

Today the Family Law Bill has its second reading in the House of Commons. Some MPs seem to be under the misapprehension that Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is a dangerous radical, and that his Bill will offer an instant divorce upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. The characterisation of this pious Presbyterian as the enemy of family values is a bizarre misreading of the man. Indeed, the Lord Chancellor avowed in a recent interview that, if he could be granted one wish, it would be for all marriages to last happily ever after.

Unfortunately, fairy-tales bear all too little resemblance to real life. What the framers of any divorce law have to accept is that making divorce punitively hard does not ensure that marriages will last forever. On the contrary, it deters couples from marrying at all. The Lord Chancellor has sensibly opted for a middle way. His Bill will make three quarters of couples wait longer for their divorce than they do now. And, as far as possible, it aims to reduce conflict — which is the best way of minimising the harm that divorce tends to do to children.

First the Bill removes the notion of fault which, under current legislation, serves no purpose other than to shorten to a matter of months the time taken for a divorce to be granted. The "unreasonable behaviour" that husbands and wives cite as ground for divorce can take in such trivial matters as cutting toenails in the bath or spending too long on the telephone. No burden of proof is required; and allegations from one side are often matched by the other. This crescendo of accusation and counter-accusation, frequently encouraged by lawyers, tends only to turn what could have remained relatively amicable relationships into thoroughly acrimonious ones.

Secondly, the Bill encourages couples to use mediation rather than the courts to settle disputes over money, property and children. This too tends to dampen rather than fan the flames of conflict. Research shows that, in divorces settled by mediation, the children are more likely to remain in contact with both parents. Moreover, under the new proposals, agreement will have to be reached on the division of property and the care of children before a judge will grant a divorce.

Nobody pretends that the new Bill will eliminate family breakdown altogether. No law could do so, as failed marriages are caused by individuals and cannot be prevented by the State. But in the majority of cases it will make so-called "divorce on demand" more difficult to achieve. Couples will have to wait longer, think harder, and contemplate the cold realities of life post-divorce before, not after, a decree is granted. If any marriages are saved by this period of reflection, the Bill will have been worthwhile. It is a humane and civilised measure, which deserves to be turned into law.

TAKING THE PROFIT

Middle Britain is in rude good health at Leamington Spa

The middle classes have always been this country's steadiest element. Today they are also its commercial backbone, and most heartening proof of their utility to Britain now comes from Leamington Spa. As we report in the Business section, a survey has found that the town, hitherto known mainly for its elegant flavour of Victorian waters, has surged to the head of a competitive commercial table. More than any other town in the land, Leamington Spa is home to the highest proportion of profit-making businesses, with an ample gamut of service and manufacturing companies.

Although it has never suffered from anonymity — its waters have always acted as an antidote to that ailment — Leamington Spa has tended to be a self-effacing place. Lacking the aplomb of a Tunbridge Wells or the strut of a Cheltenham — to name two places with which it has been often, and unflatteringly, compared — this quiet Warwickshire spa town has preferred always to accompany Britain's evolution than to attempt to lead it.

Attitudes to Leamington Spa — which reflected, no doubt, earlier attitudes to Middle Britain — have not always been appreciative of its charms. "Oh! Chintzy, chintzy cheeriness/ Half dead and half alive!" wrote John Betjemen in one of his very early poems, *Death in Leamington*. John Ruskin once likened the town to "the first practical scene of a pantomime . . . before the business begins." (A literary footnote of interest to readers: it was here that he wrote *The King of the Golden River*, for Effie Gray, the woman who so startled him on their wedding night.)

There is more. Nathaniel Hawthorne, unkindly, described it as a place of "somewhat unreal finery", "built with malice afore-thought as a place of gentility". He was being a snob, of course, and taking a dig at the new middle classes of the Industrial Revolution. Leamington Spa, in Hawthorne's time, was where mildly-moneyed folk went to cure themselves of over-eating and TB. After Queen Victoria died, Leamington Spa became a synonym simply for quiet respectability.

Yet Leamington Spa today finds itself at the top table: there is dosh, clearly, in delicacy, diligence and quiet invention. Its rise to commercial recognition should be reassuring to Modern Britons, force-fed for too long on tales of "industrial decline". Wealth can be created as effectively in lace-curtained middle-class homes as it was once done is smoke-filled factories and darkened mines. This is the true message from Leamington Spa.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Identifying and compensating for risks posed by BSE

From Mr Oliver Thorold

Sir, Sooner or later compensation to the tune of billions of pounds will doubtless be paid to farming and commercial interests affected by "mad cow" disease.

When recent human health disasters have followed major errors of public health policy — contaminated blood products for haemophiliacs and human growth hormone come to mind — no prompt offer of compensation was made to those most directly affected, the victims and their families. They therefore resorted to litigation.

A predictable process follows. A legal action group obtains legal aid, but members of the action group ineligible for legal aid have to accept daunting financial anxiety. Protracted scientific investigation is carried out. Complex pleadings are exchanged in which duties of care are denied, scientific contentions resisted, and causation is often improbably disputed.

With the haemophilia litigation, a settlement was eventually reached, driven as much by political embarrassment and media pressure as legal merits. The same may well occur with the human growth hormone litigation. What should always have been a political decision is shown to have been inappropriately assigned to the legal process, embittering the families of the victims and enriching the legal profession for no good purpose.

With BSE and CJD, unless there is prompt acknowledgement of the justice of compensating victims and families, litigation will follow. Those who contract the disease, and their families, cannot be expected to see their claims resisted while the economic losses of the food industry are compensated. Life is surely more important than livelihood.

Yours etc,
OLIVER THOROLD,
Doughty Street Chambers,
11 Doughty Street, WC1.
March 22.

From Ms Eleanor Rylance

Sir, The blame for the BSE catastrophe must lie squarely on the public's shoulders for refusing to be interested in what they and their families are eating, and on the British obsession with cheap food.

I grew up in France, where no such obsession exists, and people will gladly pay more for better food. I am pleased to hear that France has halted all imports of British beef (reports and leading article, March 22; also see letters, same day); maybe this will make the British farming community take note.

Yours faithfully,
ELEANOR RYLANCE,
Pinemount Lodge,
Pinemount Road, Camberley, Surrey.
March 21.

From Mr John Pettegree

Sir, As a herdsman having complete responsibility for 150 cows, I have had to confront BSE in a responsible manner for some five years. I could not in conscience do otherwise, although the procedure is inconvenient, producing full records of the sick animal's family and requiring me to accommodate the suspected animal for some months before the symptoms are sufficient to obtain confirmation from the MAFF vets.

There are no diagnostic tests available — purely changes in character, behaviour and mobility which have to be identified first by the herdsman. These may not be apparent to a stranger for some time, even if that person is a MAFF vet.

An immediate clear line must be drawn to start restoring national and international confidence in the British beef industry. This can be achieved in the first instance by making it an offence to dispose of any cattle born before June 1990 to any party other than MAFF. Most of these will be cull cows, born in the pre-1990 "grey" period, and it will be the Government's responsibility to ensure that they do not enter the food chain in any form other than fertiliser.

This measure should establish some rationalisation of a fraught situation without destroying the national dairy herd, which because of recent quality and welfare pressures will be approaching elite status by January 1997.

It will also avoid squandering precious national resources better used on the unfortunate victims of bovine-induced CJD and into researching the neutralising of the agent (or prion) threatening a generation.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PETTEGREE,
2 New Cottages, Parkside Farm,
Bishops Sutton,
Nr Alresford, Hampshire.
March 22.

From Mr I. J. Kemeny

Sir, The weekend's headline story seemed not to affect the choices made by our diners.

Saturday night's score was: 6 per cent lamb, 8 per cent vegetarian, 9 per cent fish, 30 per cent poultry, 47 per cent beef.

Oh, the unflappable British.

Yours faithfully,
I. J. KEMENY
(Chef proprietor),
Kings Restaurant,
Mount Road,
Hinckley, Leicestershire.
March 24.

From Mr Derek Nimmo

Sir, We celebrate one hundred years at this address in May this year. What are we to do? Call ourselves the Lamb Chop Club?

Yours faithfully,
DEREK NIMMO,
Beefsteak Club,
9 Irving Street,
Leicester Square, WC2.
March 22.

Voluntary code on buried treasures

From Mr C. John Barron

Sir, Sir Nicholas Goodison (letter, March 18) should not be unduly worried about the proposed voluntary code of practice for the reporting of objects of archaeological interest. Too fine a net would result in a mountain of bureaucracy, excessive costs and low benefits.

Mandatory reporting is not justified at this stage because of the good record of the hobby in recent years. The objective must be to encourage an even greater level of reporting by the responsible metal-detecting fraternity such as myself.

An English total of 2,500 single finds of coins of the late 5th to the 11th centuries between 1980 and 1988 compared with France, 32 coins on record; Germany, 144; Sweden 175; and Norway, 33.

I suspect that the figure Sir Nicholas writes of, "400,000 objects of archaeological interest" discovered each year in England and Wales, may be an overestimate, based on a small sample taken in Norfolk (an area high on the list for the quality and quantity of finds) and extrapolated for the whole country. That the bulk of the finds would excite any professional interest is in doubt.

Objects of top quality and coins and artefacts of the Celtic and Saxon periods, the scatter of which provides much information about trade and spheres of influence, should obviously be reported. But what is the historical significance of an isolated Elizabethan half groat found in the middle of a ploughed field, possibly 100 yards from where it slipped from a purse, or a common Roman brooch, discarded when it broke?

Would the minimal increase in archaeological knowledge at county level justify the cost of reporting? I suggest not, though the village museum might be thrilled by the news.

Yours sincerely,
C. JOHN BARRON,
Little Haywards Farmhouse,
Courtlands,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex.
March 22.

From Mr C. J. Martin

Sir, Sir Anthony Grant's Bill (report, March 9) is designed, after much consultation with trade organisations and interested bodies, to replace the archaic and unworkable treasure trove law, not to broaden its coverage.

Should this Bill become law it will give clear guidelines to all persons involved in finding or dealing with items containing precious metal and others associated with them.

A discussion document issued by the Department of National Heritage on portable antiquities offers hope of a workable voluntary code for the reporting of finds. Any legislation to make non-reporting an offence would prove unworkable.

It will prove far more rewarding to record and investigate the more significant finds that may be voluntarily reported, and where possible acquire these for public institutions, than to try to enact draconian legislation to force a finder to report three musket balls.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. MARTIN,
C. J. Martin (Coins) Ltd,
85 The Vale, Southgate, N14.
March 22.

Glory of the garden

From the President of the Garden History Society

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's article, "A poet rudely great" (March 21), pleads eloquently for Alexander Pope as one of our greatest poets, following the announcement (Diary, March 20) that his famous grotto, embedded in what remains of his Twickenham villa, is now up for sale.

Pope was a great gardener as well as poet: his neat, polished couplets have the force of proverbs: "fools rush in where angels fear to tread"; "A little learning is a dangerous thing." In the same way, his landscaping pronouncements became rallying cries for those laying out country estates: "Consult the Genius of the Place in all"; "let Nature never be forgot".

Pope's idea of designing landscape in harmony with nature, as a means of refreshing the human spirit, was the inspiration, not only of 18th-century landscape gardening, but also of the public parks movement in the next century and much of today's landscape architecture.

There could be no better use for the present St Catherine's Convent than as a study centre for literature and landscape in celebration of a world-famous poet-gardener.

Yours sincerely,
MAVIS BATEY, President,
The Garden History Society,
77 Cowcross Street, EC1.
March 22.

Woody Allen's jazz

From Mr Jack Sudic

Sir, Despite your rather strange review of the Woody Allen concert at the Festival Hall (Arts, March 20), it was thoroughly enjoyed by more than 3,000 people who were there.

Woody Allen is a very good clarinettist in the New Orleans style and was playing with some world-class musicians who were only there because his name ensured the concert would be a sell-out. This has been an outstanding contribution to jazz in Britain and let's hope that Woody Allen and his band are invited back again for the many people who couldn't get in to see them this time.

Yours etc,
JACK SUDIC (Honorary Secretary,
BBC Jazz Society),
48b The Market Place,
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11.
March 20.

No Smoking Day

From Mr S. P. L. Kennedy

Sir, Why should children persuading parents to give up smoking (letters, March 14, 19, 22) be described as "emotional blackmail"?

I used to be a light smoker. One evening, as I indulged in my last cigarette of the day, my son, then 11, said: "Dad, give it up; it's not good for you." I thought rapidly and replied: "OK, provided you never smoke." He never has — and I have been a satisfied non-smoker for 25 years.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK KENNEDY,
Panfields,
Denne Park, Horsham, West Sussex.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Fishing limits

From Mr Robin Teverson, MEP for Cornwall and West Plymouth (Liberal and Democratic Reformist (Liberal Democrat))

Sir, Your reports of March 18 and 19 of the visit to Newlyn by Fisheries Commissioner Emma Bonino are accurate: both sides took it as an opportunity for some straight talking. But I can report that the outcome of her visit was more positive than you suggest.

Signora Bonino came to Newlyn at my invitation, and I am glad to say that before she went away she gave me three clear promises. In addition to legal advice on how to stamp out the quota hoppers, which you report, she also promised to explore ways of using southwestern waters as a pilot area for regionalisation of the common fisheries policy.

Liberal Democrats have been pressing for this for years — we believe that it could overcome national rivalries within the CFP — and this concession is a reward for our persistence.

Finally, Signora Bonino also said that she would bring forward proposals to the EU member states to extend the 12-mile limit of national control beyond the year 2002, when it is currently due to expire. This is the first assurance anyone has had that this will happen — if it doesn't then the CFP could stretch right up to the high-water mark.

Fishermen were predictably angry with Signora Bonino on a variety of issues. Whether she lives up to her promises will determine whether that anger shrinks or grows.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN TEVERSON,
Newton Farm, Metherell,
Callington, Cornwall.
March 19.

Dangerous dogs

From Mrs I. B. Dobson

Sir, Your leading article, "Dogs of war" (March 20), written in the aftermath of the attack on six-year-old Michael Swain by a bull-mastiff, refers briefly to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Parliament is currently considering reforms of that Act, all of them framed from the perspective of pro-dog interest, but there is no prospect that the outcome will provide better protection for the public.

In reforming the Act, our legislators face some genuine difficulties. Firstly, while some breeds are manifestly more dangerous than others, it is often difficult to determine to which breed a particular animal belongs. Secondly, most dog-bite incidents involve dogs that are for most of the time well behaved or simply not in the dangerous categories defined by the Act.

We believe that the Act should remain in place for the time being, but that it is the wrong starting point in any strategy for protecting the public. What is needed is a national dog registration scheme that would define the breed of any dog and identify its owner. "Borderline" breed questions could be settled in advance of any incidents and owners would take more care, knowing they could more readily be held responsible for their dog's behaviour.

The Government has consistently rejected dog registration as being "costly, ineffectual and bureaucratic". The real reason for its indolence, I believe, is deference to the dog interests.

Yours faithfully,
I. B. DOBSON
(Honorary Secretary),
Canine Crisis Council,
PO Box 76, Leicester, LE5 1EJ.
March 20.

From Mrs A. Jinks

Sir, I write to express concern at the emotive reference in your leading article to the "urgent need for more stringent rules on the ownership and control of vicious breeds of dogs".

If the Dangerous Dogs Act were to be reviewed, any "urgency" involved should be strictly balanced by careful consideration and extensive consultation, so as to avoid imposing a further piece of messy and misguided legislation on a largely innocent sector of the public. The current Act has already done much unjustified damage to owners and dogs and we do not want this perpetuated.

Yours faithfully,
A. JINKS,
The Bungalow, Thurlaston, Leicester.
March 21.

Curse of Glencoe

From Mr John Campbell-Kease, FSA Scot

Sir, I doubt Mr Eadie's suggestion (letter, March 16) that the "curse of Scotland" may originate as a reference to the coat of arms of the Earl of Stair.

The charges in the first quarter of the earl's arms are, technically, lozenges (the word "diamonds" being unknown in this context) and are tinctured *or* not *gules* — that is gold not red. More significantly, they are borne on an *azure* (blue) saltire — the cross of St Andrew.

Further, the word "curse" can be a corruption of "cross". *Brewer's* goes so far as to imply that the nine of diamonds may be termed "curse" because its elements are arranged in the form of a St Andrew's cross. The subject thus remains open.

Yours truly,
JOHN CAMPBELL-KEASE,
8 Ferryfield Road,
Connel by Oban, Argyll.

Prison CABs

From Viscountess Runciman

Sir, You reported (News in brief, March 14) that HM Prison Whitemoor was the first prison to have its own branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Over recent years CAB have taken their services into a number of prisons. The first full-time bureau was set up in Wormwood Scrubs in December 1994, after six years part-time.

Funded by the City Parochial Foundation, it has a team of three paid staff and is an important experiment in making a vital community service available to prisoners on the same terms and with the same standards as for all other citizens. It gets every support from the prison and since it started work has held over 2,500 interviews with prisoners.

Yours sincerely,
RUTH RUNCIMAN (Advice worker),
Kensington Citizens Advice Bureau,
140 Ladbroke Grove, W10.
March 20.

Ups and downs

From the Chief Executive of Tandridge Council

Sir, I was intrigued to read the comment by Andrew Foster, Controller of the Audit Commission ("League tables show councils are complacent about performance", March 21), that "It is not enough to be just average. Everyone can and should improve."

As I understand it, the law of averages does not work like that. If one council were to rise above average, another would have to fall below.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP THOMAS,
Chief Executive,
Tandridge Council,
Council Offices,
Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey.
March 21.

Nature's secrets

From Mr Sebastian Robinson

Sir, I was delighted to read Nigel Hawkes's article on March 18 about the recent unexpected discovery of naphthalene in outer space. It brought to mind the story of the American savant (William James, Henry's brother, I think) who kept a notepad and pencil by his bed in case he should be visited by a great idea in the night; he was awakened by a blinding revelation about the nature of the universe, which he noted down.

In the morning he found that he had written "The odor of petroleum permeates everything" — thus inspiring R. P. Lister to write a poem in *The New Yorker* which began:

The universe is godly vast
And most uncommon fine;
It whizzes round extremely fast
And smells of turpentine.

Turpentine, naphthalene, what's the odds?

Yours,
SEBASTIAN ROBINSON,
7 Kirklee Gardens, Glasgow.
March 20.

The Rev Richard Holroyd, Team

The Rev Philip Need, Chaplain to the Bishop of Chelmsford: to be

The Rev Leonard Pepper, Team Vicar, High Wycombe Team Ministry (Oxford): to retire March 31.

on continuously for indefinite periods, leaving

conditions of energy which is absolutely infinitesimal as compared with what we have

things whose nerve centres do not lie deep enough to be shielded from their influence.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 23: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this morning visited Legoland, Windsor, Berkshire, as part of the Fortieth Anniversary celebrations of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the South East Region, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr Philip Wroughton).

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 24: The Duke of Kent, Honorary President, the Royal Geographical Society, this eveing departed Gatwick Airport for Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Major Sir Shane Blewitt and Sir Kenneth Scott to be Extra Equerries to Her Majesty.

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will visit the Princess Alice Hospice, Esher, at 3.15, to mark its 10th anniversary.

The Prince of Wales will open the Oxford Trust's new centre for innovation and hold his annual innovation awards at the Oxford Centre for Innovation, Mill Street, Oxford, at 10.25; and will visit Linacre College at 1.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Mulberry Design Company at Chilcompton, at 12.30 and at Kilver Court, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, at 1.20. Later, as Visitor of the Dorothy House Foundation Macmillan Service, will visit Winsley, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, at 3.00.

Princess Margaret will attend a dinner at the Café Royal at 7.30 in aid of the Amber Trust.

Today's event

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy & Royal Marines

Commodore: P D Stone — COMAW SEA 4.10.96

Captain: A K Dymock — Cornwall 1.10.96; P H Jeffery — RNAS Yeovilton 13.09.96; W H Kelly — Staff of 2SL/CNH in rank of Cdre 24.09.96; A M Willmet — Northwood 30.08.96.

Commander: P J Couch — MOD Bath 20.09.96; M J Dale — Portugal 12.07.96; P Lambert — Coventry as Capt 6.08.96; 06.08; A J Norton — Staff of 2SL/CNH 16.04.96.

Surgeon Commander (D): J D Victor — Staff of CINCFLEET 30.04.96.

Retirements

Colonel: B L Carter — 16.06.96.

Captain: C M Coates — 27.05.96.

Local Lieutenant Colonel: H W D Leicester — 15.06.96.

Commander: S L Bennett — 15.06.96; J A Langley — 14.06.96.

Army

Major-General: N W F Richards — To be GOC HQ 4 Div, 31.3.96.

Colonel: P R Horobin — To Primary Health & Dental Care Svcs(G), 25.3.96; P Lynch — To MOD, 25.3.96; J I Montgomery — To Primary Health & Dental Care Svcs(G), 25.3.96; A L Moorby — To HQ Land, 25.3.96; F R Steer — To IMS Brussels, 31.3.96.

Lieutenant-Colonel: G A R Adams AGC(ALS) — To HQ CDO Forces RM, 25.3.96; S J Barry PARA — To JHQ Implementation Team, 25.3.96; J J Bethell REME — To be CO SEME, 25.3.96; J J S Bourne-May COLDM GDS — To Staff Coll, 25.3.96; A Briard RGBW — To MOD, 25.3.96; H C H Ellison RTR — To MOD, 26.3.96; D T Keatch RA — To MOD, 25.3.96; S J Oxlade RGBW — To be CO 2 RGBW, 25.3.96; N B Philpott RA — To be CO 16 Regt RA, 25.3.96; J J P Poral-Wilczynski PARA — To HQ INF, 27.3.96.

Retirements

Brigadier: M P S Shaw Late R Signals, 31.3.96; R A Smart Late RADC — 31.3.96; R J S Wardle Late COLDM GDS, 31.3.96.

Colonel: J R Cawthorne Late RLC, 31.3.96; R A Eccles Late INT CORPS, 1.4.96; J McKinnell Late AGC(ETS), 29.3.96; N M Prideaux Late RGJ, 31.3.96.

Royal Air Force

Group Captain: E G Samuel — HQPTC, 29.3.96; N S Rooms — RAF Locking, 29.3.96.

Wing Commander: J S Alton — RAF ST ATHAN, 25.3.96; G J Gardiner — HQ AFNORTHWEST, 25.3.96.

Air Vice-Marshal C G Terry, appointed Chief Engineer (RAF), 8.3.96; Air Vice-Marshal C R Spink, To be Air Officer Commanding No 11/18 Group 1.4.96; Air Vice-Marshal R H Goodall, To be Chief of Staff, Permanent Joint Headquarters, 1.4.96.

Dinner

The Maccabaeans

Sir John Balcombe, President of the Maccabaeans, accompanied by Lady Balcombe, presided at the annual house dinner held last night at the Garrick. Rabbi Hugo Gryn was the guest speaker.

Legal appointments

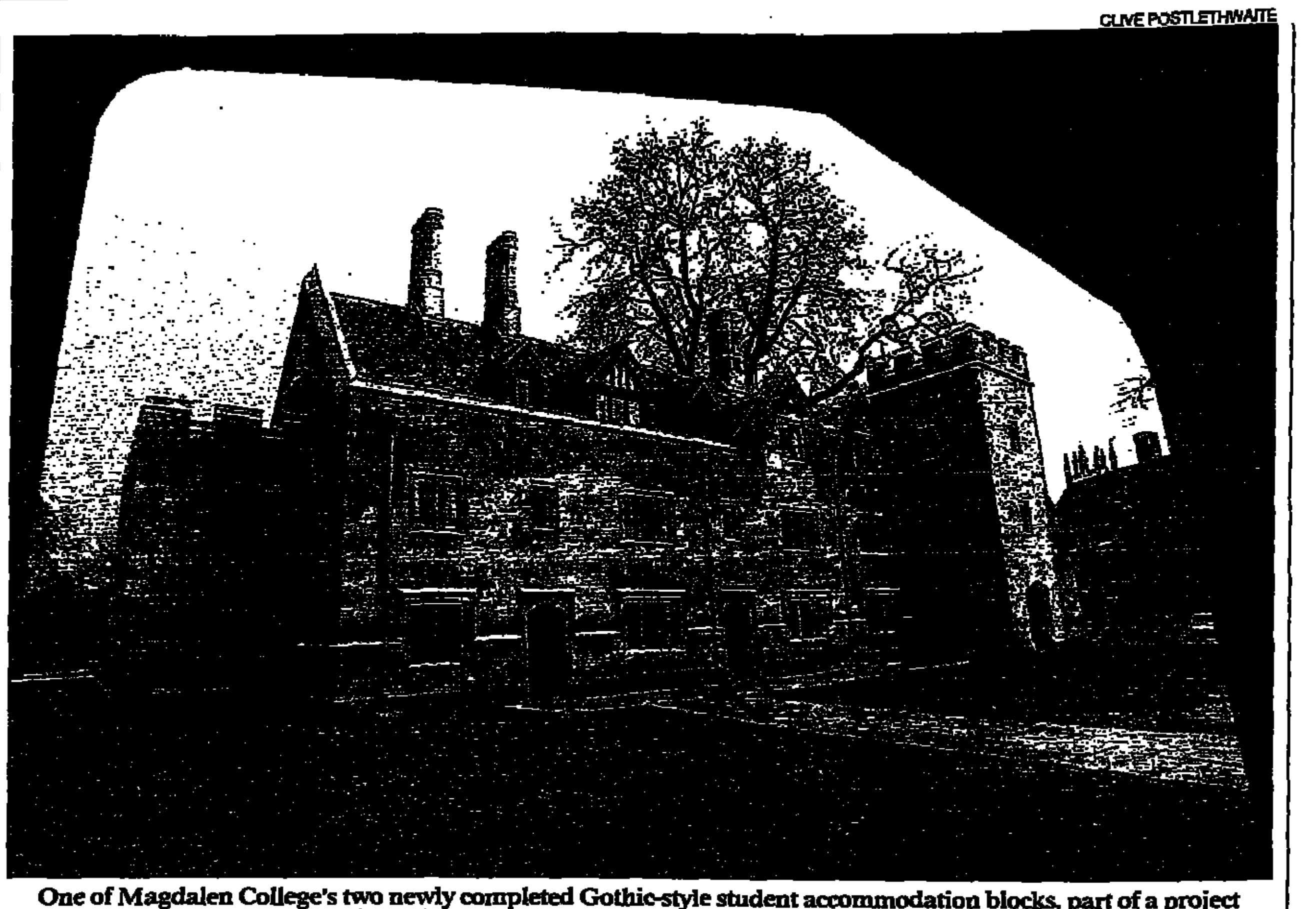
The following have been appointed to the Judicial Studies Board: Mr Justice Judge, District Judge Wyn Rees and Mr Wentworth Payne.

Nature notes

Male wrens which are battling over their territories go higher and higher into the trees to sing and threaten their rivals. They have such a loud, vibrant song that their whole body shakes. In the evening, gardens and woods are full of singing blackbirds: they have a rich, fluting song which crumbles into harsher notes at the end of each phrase. Siskins are starting to sing a tinkling, wheezing song in the alder groves and birch woods of southern England: they will soon be returning to Scotland and nesting in the tops of the pines. Cock pheasants are stalking through the woods with their long tails flowing. Every so often they stop, press their tail to the ground, flap their short wings and give a trumpeting cry. They are trying to collect a harem and warn off other males. The sticky buds are slowly opening on some horse-chestnuts: the pink bud-scales fall to the ground and the coiled leaves look furry. On larch trees, the new leaves are appearing as tiny green points at the tips of the woody, dead-looking buds. The first queen wasps and queen bees emerge from hibernation on warm mornings: they buzz loudly as they pass. DJM

The siskin

CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE



One of Magdalen College's two newly completed Gothic-style student accommodation blocks, part of a project that will include a third student block and a lecture theatre. The scheme, which is being funded by former members of the Oxford college, uses natural honey-coloured stone to blend in with other college buildings

Archaeology

Turin Shroud 'dates to Christ'

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

THE Turin Shroud could, after all, date to the time of Christ, according to Russian scientists using new techniques for dating burnt materials. The relic, long claimed as Jesus's winding-sheet, was dismissed as a medieval fake after radiocarbon dating in 1989.

"Our experimental study leads us to conclude that the calendar age of the Shroud of Turin could be closer to the 1st or 2nd century AD," Dmitri Kouznetsov and his colleagues claim. "We have found that biofractionation and fire-induced carboxylation corrections modify the conventional radiocarbon methods."

Dr Kouznetzov's team, from the Sedov Biopolymer Research Laboratories in Moscow, argue that a fire in 1532, when the Shroud was enshrined at Chambéry in the French Alps, induced chemical changes in the cellulose of the linen textile. They tested old Russian and Palestinian textiles of known age, the latter of around the time of Christ, and found that "a significant additional amount of carbon-14 and carbon-13 atoms incorporate into the textile cellulose structure as a portion of carboxy-groups".

The addition of such coeval carbon, they argue, would make subsequent radiocarbon dates appear much more recent than the actual age of the textile in question. Using advice from the Military Fire Defence Academy in Moscow and AMS accelerator radiocarbon dating at the new Russian Academy of Sciences facility in Protvino, Dr Kouznetsov's team conclude that "different fire-simulating model conditions were able to promote carboxylation in textile cellulose molecules, with carbon monoxide and dioxide reacting in the presence of silver and water". At the time of the 1532 fire the Shroud was kept in a silver reliquary.

The control sample of cloth from En Gedi in Israel, previously dated by the University of Arizona AMS system to 100 BC-AD 100, was redated at Protvino after being subjected to conditions simulating the 1532 fire: the new date placed it between AD 1150 and AD 1260. When the Turin Shroud was dated in 1989, several laboratories concurred in placing it at AD 1260-1390.

"The Shroud of Turin should be dated using a multidisciplinary approach that takes into account the Chambéry fire-induced enrichment of the textile cellulose by carbon-13 and carbon-14," the team concludes.

Dr A. J. T. Jull and his colleagues at the Arizona AMS radiocarbon-dating facility, writing in the same journal, say that they have failed to reproduce the Moscow team's experimental results. "This work is clearly flawed in several respects," they say. "We believe that the carbon-14 methods described have not had appropriate control experiments performed."

They are especially critical of the fact that "the measurements were done on an apparently untested piece of equipment with no reference to normal procedures of reproducibility, standards, and control", and say that even if the 20 per cent carboxylation rate claimed by Dr Kouznetsov's team is correct, "a change in the radiocarbon age of about 100 years would result".

The 800-year gap claimed by the Russian team between the 1989 dates and their new technique would not be possible even if total carboxylation took place, the Arizona scientists argue. The dispute will, however, revive interest in the Shroud: even though it has been widely dismissed as unrelated to the life and time of Christ, how the negative image of a man on the cloth was produced remains a mystery and an inspiration.

Source: *Journal of Archaeological Science* 23: 109-122, 157-160.

Council for Licensed Conveyancers

The following were successful in the winter 1996 examinations:

Foundation Contract: N Brown; A Browning; S Cornwell; S Cotter; A Dunkerley; C Evans; J Feeney; S Ferguson; S Henshaw; M Jones; J Knight; R Lowthion; K Mehta; H Nappin; V Parsons; H Scott; G Seston-Ferdinand; M Tibbet; M Thompson; A Wasteney; R Yemm.

Final Accounts: C Bailey; N Banham, M Bicknell; A Eldridge; G Knox; G Littler; M Picker; C Pryse-Jones; S Shah; D Santry; J Sutton; R Tovell.

Foundation Land Law: R Abbott; S Baylis; N Brown; A Dunkerley; C Evans; S Ferguson; S Freeman; N Jackson; M Jones; S Priestly; H Scott; G Seston-Ferdinand; M Tibbet; A Wasteney.

Final Conveyancing: G Baker; P Bell; M Brown; S Buthlay; A Cranston; J Fensom; A Jones; T Pritchard; C Pryse-Jones; A Vanner; L Wills; G Woods.

Old Style Intermediate: J Carter; A McDonald.

Latest wills

The Right Hon Harold Arthur, 1st and last **Viscount Watkinson of Woking**, PC, CH, of Bosham, West Sussex, Minister of Transport 1955-59 and Minister of Defence 1959-62, left estate valued at £265,996 net.

The Right Hon Geoffrey Noel, 12th **Earl Waldergrave**, of Chewton Mendip, Somerset, agriculturist, landowner and farmer, former Lord Warden of the Stannaries, left estate valued at £2,084,263 net.

He left £1,000 to St Mary Magdalene Church, Chewton Mendip, and the remainder of his estate mostly to relatives.

Professor George Stanley **Rushbrooke**, FRS, of Gosforth, Tyne and Wear, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Newcastle University, 1951-80, left estate valued at £703,377 net.

He left £5,000 and ⅓ of the residue to personal legatees, and ⅓ of the residue equally between the University Development Trust of Newcastle University, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, St James United Reformed Church, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Christian Aid.

Mrs Zaida Ann **Blaikie**, of Cheltenham, co-founder of the Co-Workers of Mother Teresa, left estate valued at £319,712 net.

She left £10,000 to the Missionaries of Charity, and £5,000 each to the University of Surrey Society and the National Trust.

New Recorders

South Eastern Circuit

David M Bean, Inigo G Bing, Joseph John Boothby, Marie Therese Catterson, Suzanne Coates, Kieran B Coonan, QC, Patricia M T Dangor, Paul Dodgson, Alan E Greenwood, Susan Hamilton, QC, Walter Gareth Hawkesworth, Nigel R W Lambert, David A Landau, Timothy J Langdale, QC, Humfrey J Malins, Richard G B McCombe, QC, Rodney G McKinnon, Neil A McKittrick, Jeffrey V Pegden, George F Pulman, QC, Richard J Rundell, Christopher R A Sallon, QC, Pamela Scriven, QC, Andrew C Smith, QC, Christopher J Smyth, Alan C Steynor, Michael A Suppersione, QC, Christopher J Sutton-Mattocks, Nigel C Van der Bijl, Graham B N White, District Judge E Willers, Hazel E Williamson, QC, Alastair Wilson, QC, Michael P Yelton.

Western Circuit

Paul R Barclay, Andrew J Barnett, Patrick R J Clarkson, QC, Paul J D Coleridge, QC, Mark Evans, QC, Mark A Everall, QC, Anthony Derwin Hope, James Roger Jarvis, Andrew H R Maitland, Christopher P Mather, Claire M Miskin.

Birthdays today

Sir Brian Bailey, former chairman, Health Education Authority, 73; Major Sir Shane Blewitt, Royal Equerry, 61; Mr Humphrey Burton, writer and broadcaster, 65; Sir Kenneth Carlisle, MP, 55; Mr John Coles, archaeologist, 66; Lord Crawshaw, 63; Mr Lawrence Cunliffe, MP, 67; Mr Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, 44; Professor Mary Douglas, anthropologist, 75; Professor Sir Raymond Firth, anthropologist, 95; Mr Nigel Forman, MP, 53; Professor Sir Patrick Forrest, surgeon, 73; Mr Robert Fox, theatrical producer, 44; Miss Aretha Franklin, singer, 54; Mr John Gau, television producer, 56; Sir Peter Gibbings, former chairman, Anglia Television Group, 67; General Sir James Glover, 67; Mr Benjamin Hanbury, racehorse trainer, 50; Mr David Hicks, interior designer and author, 67; Mr Elton John, singer, 49; Mr G. R. John, former chairman, Dairy Crest, 62; the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, Archbishop of Wales, 62; Mr Barry Kyle, theatre director, 49; Sir Bernard Miller, former chairman, John Lewis Partnership, 92; Mr Leif Mills, trade unionist, 60; Mr Richard O'Brien, actor and writer, 54; Lord Quinton, 71; Miss Dorothy Squires, singer, 81; the Earl of Stradbroke, 59; Mr William Taylor, Commissioner, City of London Police, 49; Lord Walker of Worcester, 64; Mr Michael Whitlam, director-general, British Red Cross Society, 49; Mr Keith Whitson, chief executive, Midland Bank, 53.

Service luncheon

"Grapple" Reunion

Air Vice-Marshal B. H. Newton, chairman, and Mrs Newton received the guests at the 25th annual reunion luncheon held on Saturday at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, for officers of all three services who served on Christmas Island with Task Force "Grapple". Major-General J. C. Woollett was the speaker.

Service dinners

31 (City of London) Signal Regiment (V)

Major-General I.O.J. Sprackling, Honorary Colonel of 31 (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) was present with Officers of the Regiment and their guests at the dining out on Saturday, at Coulsdon Territorial Army Centre, of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K.J. Bruce-Smith. Major P.A. Fredericks presided.

4th/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA)

Colonel Roger Tomkins presided at the annual dinner of the 4th/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA) Officers Dinner Club held on Saturday in the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Colchester.

St Nazaire Society

Mr Eric Dawkins was the guest of honour at a reunion dinner of the St Nazaire Society held on Saturday at the Royal Duchy Hotel, Falmouth.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.J. England and Miss K.S. Chaundy

The engagement is announced between Marcus John, son of Mr and Mrs P. England, of Wilbarston, Leicestershire, and Katie Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.L. Chaundy, of Old Marston, Oxford.

Dr H.E.R. Ford and Miss V.G. Pollock

The engagement is announced between Hugo, elder son of Dr and Mrs Edward Ford, of Balsham, Cambridge, and Victoria, younger daughter of Lady Cassidi, of Pitney, Somerset, and the late Dr Anthony Pollock, of Omagh, Co Tyrone.

Mr J.R. Ford and Miss S.M. Howard-Smith

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Ford, of Uxbridge, Middlesex, and Suzanne, daughter of Captain and Mrs James Howard-Smith, of Wisborough Green, West Sussex.

Señor J.L. Gomez Montolin and Miss E.C. Arbuthnott

The engagement is announced between Jose Luis, younger son of Señor and Señora Raphael Gomez, of Castellon, Spain, and Elizabeth Christian, younger daughter of Colonel the Hon and Mrs David Arbuthnott, of Trochry, Dunkeld, Perthshire.

Mr C.S. Hartnell and Miss I.L.C. Brown

The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs C. St John Hartnell, of Cameley, Bristol, and Isobel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Brown, of Salcombe, Devon.

Mr R. Townsend and Miss L. Baylis

The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mrs Elizabeth Townsend and the late Mr Geoffrey Townsend, of Fleetwood, Lancashire, and Lucy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Baylis, of Llantilio Crossenny, Gwent.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Henry II, reigned 1154-89, Le Mans, France, 1133; Joachim Murat, soldier, King of Naples, self-styled Joachim Napoleon, La Bastide-Fortuviere, 1767; Giovanni Amici, astronomer, Modena, Italy, 1786; Arturo Toscanini, conductor, Parma, Italy, 1867; Belá Bartok, composer, Nagyszent Miklos, Hungary, 1881.

DEATHS: Nicholas Hawksmoor, architect, London, 1736; Anna Seward, the "Swan of Lichfield", poet and novelist, Lichfield, Staffordshire, 1809; Caroline Chisholm, the "emigrants' friend", London, 1877; Frédéric Mistral, poet, Nobel laureate 1904, Maillane, France, 1914; Claude Debussy, composer, Paris, 1918; John Drinkwater, poet and dramatist, London, 1937; Faisal bin Abdul Aziz, King of Saudi Arabia 1964-75, assassinated, Riyadh, 1975.

Today is Lady Day, which, until 1752, was the legal beginning of the year.

The British Parliament abolished the slave trade, 1807.

Hamlet, starring and directed by Laurence Olivier, became the first British film to win an Oscar, 1949.

The Treaty of Rome was signed, bringing into being the European Economic Community, 1957.

Uppingham

Uppingham announces the following amendment to the list published last Monday.

Music Scholarship: Anthony Way, St Paul's Cathedral Choir School.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The life I now live is not my life, but the life which Christ lives in me; and my present mortal life is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.
Galatians 2 : 20 (REB)

BIRTHS

TRUEGER - On March 19th in San Francisco, to Cordelia and Arthur, a son, Archie Rupert Leo.

DEATHS

BURTON - On March 22nd 1996 peacefully at home Ernest James, Bishop Emeritus Liberal Catholic Church, dearly loved by wife and family, respected and loved by his many friends, students and members of his Church worldwide. Service at Charing Crematorium on Friday March 29th at 2 pm. Donations to Kent Association for the Blind and enquiries to Hambrook & Johns, 1 Dymchurch Road, Hythe, Kent. (01303) 266526.

BUSHEY - On 20th March 1996 at Nazareth House, Isleworth, Father Edward Bushey. Masses to be held on Thursday 28th March 7 pm at Nazareth House Church, Isleworth and Friday 29th March 2.30 pm St Anthony's Church, Crosspath, Radlett, Herts. All enquiries to Netharcott Funeral Directors. Tel: (01707) 652288.

CHURCHILL John on 19th March. Beloved husband of Paulette, father of Paul and grandfather of Katya and Francesca. Funeral at St Simons Zelotes, Milner Street, Chelsea on Wednesday 27th March at 11.30 am. Private cremation to follow at Mortlake Crematorium.

CLARK On 22nd March 1996 at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, Tom, aged 56. Loved and loving husband of Heather, father of Nick, Judy, Christopher and Nigel, father-in-law of Shirley, Tim and Frances and grandfather of Matthew and Colin. Private cremation. Details of Thanksgiving Service to follow. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Luke's Cancer Appeal and Guildford Relate, cheques made payable to 'Tom Clark Memorial Fund', Barclays Bank, Guildford, Surrey, sort code 20-35-35, a/c no. 80462322.

DALE - Margaret Jessy, died peacefully March 21st. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Greys Hill, Henley-on-Thames, March 28th at 1pm.

DEATHS

HILL - Richard Leslie, a devoted son, husband and father to his daughters Juliana, Elizabeth, Margaret and Thirza, died peacefully at St John's Home, Oxford among his friends on Thursday 21 March. Servant, Bibliographer and Historian of the Sudan, he established its archive at Durham, a city and university which he loved. His Requiem Mass will be at 11.30am on Friday 29 March at the Chapel of All Saint's Convent, St Mary's Road, Oxford and his ashes will be interred at Ramsbury beside his beloved wife Juliana.

HOLME on 21st March peacefully, at Tegfield House, Winchester, Crystal, sister of Michael and Humphrey, and aunt of Victoria, Peter, Judith and Richard. Founder and late Principal of Princes Mead and Queens Mead schools Winchester. The cremation will be private, for family only. No flowers please. A memorial service will be held in Winchester at a later date.

NICHOLS - In Cheltenham on March 21st Lt. Col. Aubrey T.D. Funeral at St Mary's Prestbury 2 pm Friday March 29th. Enquiries Mason & Stokes (01242) 224877.

TOWER Brigadier Peter Tower CBE on 22 March 1996, died peacefully at home. Family funeral, no flowers please.

ANNIVERSARIES

GOODHART - My darling Katie, thank you for the loveliest of years. Here's to many more. All my love Will.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

CLARK:WEAVER - On March 26th 1936 at St George's Bickley, Kent, Norman Maynard Clark to Agnes Weaver SRN.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BARRACLOUGH - Elinor Mary, known also for 30 devout years as Sister Mary of the Resurrection. Laid to rest on 24th March 1995 after a Requiem Mass at the Carmelite Monastery, St Charles Square, London. Remembered with love and affection by her family and friends to whom her devotion to her faith and to the Carmelite Order is a lasting inspiration.

MURRAY - Sue. Died 25th March 1986. Darling 'maddening elf', ever remembered with gratitude, admiration and love. Jo.

ROBINSON - 25th March 1990. In treasured memory of my dear wife Anna. John.

LEGAL NOTICES

LANCASTER EXHIBITION TRUST
SECTION 78 SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT 1975
Proposed Modification Order

NOTICE is hereby given that The Trustees of the Trust established by Sir William John Lancaster under Trust Deed dated 26 July 1911 have applied to the Secretary of State for Education for an Order under Section 78 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 to modify the provisions of the Trust Deed so that its benefits may be extended to female employees of The Prudential Assurance Company Limited and the daughters of employees or former employees.

A copy of the Proposed Modification Order may be obtained on request to the Secretary of The Prudential Assurance Company Limited, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

Representations may be made to the Secretary of State by sending them to the Legal Branch Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT within the period of two months from the date of this notice.

Notice of Intended Dividend
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF FLEET DISPOSAL SERVICES LIMITED
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)

The liquidator of Fleet Disposal Services Limited gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.186 and Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that he intends to make a final dividend to the unsecured creditors of the company within 4 months of the last date for submitting claims.

Creditors who have not already done so, must send details in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator Mr P N Spratt of Price Waterhouse at Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1HB, by 24 April 1996 which is the last day for submitting claims. A creditor who does not make a claim by that date will not be included in the proposed final distribution.
Date 21 March 1996.
Peter Norman Spratt, Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE CONSUL GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA IN LONDON
SUMMONS

MR DAVID MAXWELL SCOTT, legal representative of the defendant JUSTERINI & BROOKS is summoned to appear before this Consulate General within twenty (20) days, to receive a personal notification of the judicial decree issued on 6 October 1994, by which a law suit brought by the firm Harry Davidson Representaciones S.A. against JUSTERINI & BROOKS was admitted.

Warning: Should the legal representative of the defendant fails to come, an Ad-litem guardian would be designated to take the judicial process until its culmination.

In compliance with the Law 318 of the P. Civil Code the present edict is fixed in a visible place of this Consulate for twenty days. London, 19th March 1996.
OSCAR LOPEZ PULECIO
CONSUL GENERAL

Insolvency Act 1986
In the High Court of Justice
Birmingham District Registry
Number 63 of 1996
UNION FINANCE (ESSEX) LIMITED

I, Anthony Albert Hollis of A W Mudd & Co, Audit House, 151 High Street, Billericay, Essex HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I have been duly appointed and certified by the Department of Trade as Liquidator of the above named company.

It is not proposed that a Meeting of Creditors is summoned at this stage for the purpose of determining whether a Liquidation Committee should be established, but I must draw the creditors' attention to the provisions of Section 141 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, whereby a Meeting of Creditors for that purpose shall be summoned if requested by one tenth in value of the creditors.

All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the company must deliver them to me, and all debts due to the company must be paid to me.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must forward their Proof of Debt to me.
Dated 20th March 1996.
A A HOLLIS, Liquidator

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Grand Priory of London of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem Trust

The Commissioners propose to make an Order appointing trustees of this charity. Copies of the draft Order can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission, St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference CF-268822/38790-CDIL.dn). Objections and suggestions can be sent within one month from today.

KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS

The Annual General Meeting of King George's Fund for Sailors will be held at the Mansion House on Monday April 22nd, 1996, at 3pm by kind permission of the Lord Mayor of London.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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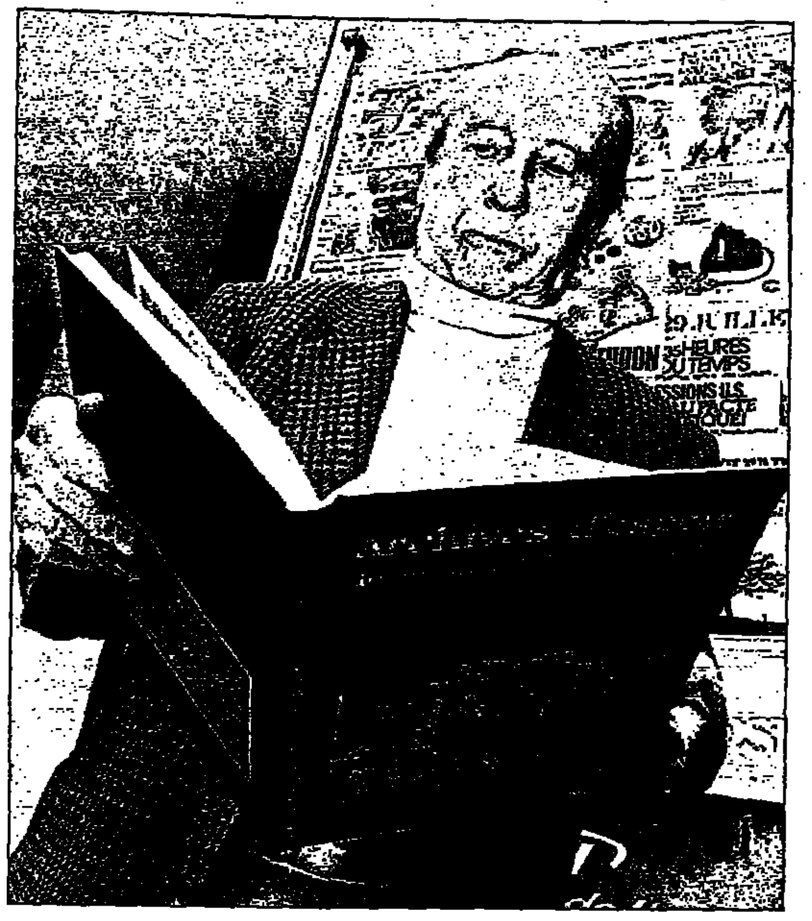
OBITUARIES

CLAUDE BOURDET

Claude Bourdet, wartime Resistance leader and founder of *Observateur* magazine, later *Le Nouvel Observateur*, died in Paris on March 20 aged 86. He was born there on October 28, 1909.



A FORMIDABLE figure of the Left in postwar France, Claude Bourdet dreamt of creating a left-wing party which would be independent of Moscow and Washington. While he never realised his ambition — being thwarted by popular support for the French Communist Party and the recreated Socialist Party of François Mitterrand — Bourdet wielded considerable influence as a journalist.

He pursued his campaigns through the columns of his newspapers, speaking out vigorously against the colonial policies of successive French governments in Indo-China and Algeria. He edited both the daily *Combat*, which he had helped to found during the war as an underground newspaper, and the weekly magazine *Observateur* — later *France Observateur*, which exists today as *Le Nouvel Observateur*, and which is now the best-selling news magazine in France. The latter was seized several times, both under de Gaulle and his predecessors, at the time of the Algerian War in the 1950s.

Bourdet was an immensely erudite man, and he would impress British journalists when he visited this country with his astringently phrased observations and his impeccable, accentless English. In France, he was also revered for his distinguished record during the war as a leader of the French Resistance.

Bourdet was the son of a turn-of-the-century playwright named Edouard Bourdet and the poetess Catherine Pozzi. Throughout his life he had independent means and these enabled him to pursue his own path in politics and journalism.

The divorce of his parents affected him deeply and for a while he turned his back on the Parisian artistic scene in which he had been raised. He studied engineering in Zurich and in 1936 joined the staff of the Minister of National Economy in the left-wing Popular Front coalition Government, as a an engineering and industrial specialist.

His left-wing Roman Catholic leanings drew him to the Popular Front and to active support of the Republican cause during the Spanish Civil War, although he did not actually fight in Spain. After the Nazi invasion of France in 1940, he became confirmed in his low opinion of traditional political parties.

Bourdet was conscripted into the French Army, and shortly afterwards taken prisoner of war. He escaped from captivity and took over the management of a soap factory in the Alpes-Maritimes, which provided an excellent cover for his Resistance activities. Operating mainly in the south of the country — then still a free zone — he helped to form the Combat network along with Henri Frenay, handling the management of Combat when Frenay joined General de Gaulle in London. He set up Combat's newspaper in 1942.

As the representative of the Combat network on the Conseil National de la Résistance, he championed the council's independence and opposed takeover attempts by both the Communists and Gaullists. Eventually, he was arrested by the Gestapo in 1944, interrogated and deported first to Oranienburg concentration camp and then Buchenwald, where he was among those rescued by Allied forces, fortunately having to suffer the horrors of that place for a relatively short time. Back in Paris, he was made a *Compagnon de la Libération*, the highest order for Resistance fighters.

As one of the leading left-wing figures to emerge from the Resistance, it was logical that in 1947 Bourdet should return to *Combat* as Editor. The newspaper had survived the end of hostilities, and was being edited in those early postwar years by Albert Camus, whom Bourdet succeeded.

Bourdet took a strong independent line on both home and foreign policies which before long brought him into conflict with Henri Smadja, the businessman who had been called in to solve the newspaper's financial problems. Bourdet resigned in 1950, taking a number of well-known journalists with him, and began planning a political weekly based on Britain's *New Statesman*.

This weekly was launched in 1951 and called *Observateur*, swiftly to be renamed *France Observateur* when it was discovered another publication existed under that title. In his editorials Bourdet lambasted successive French governments over Indo-China and Algeria. His support for Algerian independence and, in particular, a column headed "Your Gestapo in Algeria" — a criticism of French army and police methods — led to his brief arrest in 1956. Bourdet admired Pierre Mendès-France, probably the most moralistic of French Prime Ministers after the war, but did not refrain from criticising him for not realising early enough the dimension of the Algerian problem. He was also a supporter of Tito after his split with Stalin.

Bourdet's career suffered, perhaps, from devoting equal amounts of time to journalism and politics. Parallel to his work at *France Observateur* and other publications, he was active within splinter left-wing groups hostile to the main Socialist party, the SFIO, throughout the 1950s and 1960s. He was the founder of a movement called La Nouvelle Gauche, another called Union de la Gauche Socialiste, and later became a militant member of the larger and more influential Parti Socialiste Unifié (PSU).

Algerian independence in 1962 led to tensions within the PSU and also at *France Observateur*. Bourdet again resigned and spent some years on the sidelines, reappearing to oppose Mitterrand's efforts to form the new Socialist Party in the early 1970s.

Despite his behind-the-scenes guidance, Bourdet's own political career was limited to seats on the Paris city and regional councils. His influence was as a result restricted to the high moral stance he took in his writings. He had inherited the Catholic Left's opposition to traditional political leaders. In Bourdet's view, Mitterrand fell into this category and he criticised what he considered to be the lack of moral content in the future President's programme.

It was only in the late 1960s that Bourdet returned to national journalism, when he was given a column in *Temoignage Chrétien*, the influential Catholic weekly which he had helped to publish during the war when he had given it supplies of paper. The tone of his articles was generally "anti-imperialist". He wrote regularly on Third World issues and was a fervent supporter of a Palestinian state. Yet he was not slow to denounce anti-Semitism in France. Last year, he was still writing articles, notably in favour of the Bosnians.

Critics saw a basic contradiction in Bourdet's lifelong attacks on political manoeuvrings and his equally long-held desire to form a party. Generally, however, he was admired for his highly moral conception of politics. He was also one of the more internationally-minded of French journalists.

He was author of several books, including *Le Schisme Yugoslav* (1950), *L'Aventure Incertaine* (1975), which recalled his Resistance days, and his more recent *Mes Batailles* (1993). A widower since the early 1990s, he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

PROFESSOR PETER CLEMOES

Peter Clemoes, Professor of Anglo-Saxon, Cambridge University, 1969-82, died on March 16 aged 76. He was born on January 20, 1920.

WHEN Peter Clemoes began his career shortly after the war, Anglo-Saxon studies were in an uncertain state. The long reign of the great German philologists had been shattered by the war, which had itself cast a shadow over pan-Germanicism; New Criticism had begun to suggest different directions for literary studies without being quite sure that there was a space for Anglo-Saxon literature; and the new discipline of linguistics had developed language studies in ways which emphasised the modern forms rather than the ancient roots.

When he went to Cambridge as a lecturer in 1961, Clemoes found there the unique mixture of northwest European cultural studies — Anglo-Saxon, Old Norse and early Celtic languages, literature and history — which H. M. Chadwick had founded (cunningly locating it in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology to keep it safe from the corrupting influence of English Studies).

While Clemoes always supported the Chadwick inheritance, his own instinctive sympathies were with a more learned image of Anglo-Saxon culture, one which focused on manuscripts, art, and the transmutation of Latin and biblical traditions of thought, but was also deeply involved in the English language. It was entirely appropriate that his *festschrift* in 1985 should be called *Learning and Literature in Anglo-Saxon England*.

Peter Alan Martin Clemoes was born in Southend-on-Sea, and educated locally at Brentwood. Originally he hoped to become an actor and won a scholarship to RADA. But the war prevented him from taking this up, and he joined the Royal Corps of Signals instead, serving in Egypt. After the war he resumed his education, studying English at Queen Mary College, London. He graduated in 1950, and followed this with postgraduate work in Anglo-Saxon at King's College, Cambridge. He gained his doctorate in 1956, by which time he was a research fellow at Reading University. He remained at Reading until 1961, when he joined the department at Cambridge.

Over the next thirty years at Cambridge, Clemoes developed a distinct view of the interrelations of style, thought and language, culminating in a massive and highly personal book on Anglo-Saxon poetry in 1995, while simultaneously continuing his early work on the complex textual history of the writings of Abbot Aelfric.

He became Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge in 1969 and slowly built around him a department which came to reflect his own image of the discipline, adding Anglo-Latin writings and palaeography and fostering the links with English Studies which his predecessor Dorothy Whitelock had initiated.

But his attention was especially given to the gradual process of broadening and internationalising the subject, on a different basis from the Germanic philology of the prewar period. In 1963 he began a long stint as general editor of a series of ambitious facsimiles of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts (a Danish project founded as a tribute to Sir Winston Churchill). For these, he commissioned extensive introductions which pushed forward the specialist understanding of manuscripts.

In 1972 he launched what rapidly became the major journal of the subject, *Anglo-Saxon England*. He insisted from the outset that this should cover the full range of culture and history, from poetry to carpentry, in a style of English that all could follow. He presided over the second conference of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists in 1985, and worked tirelessly at fostering the subject in other countries. He formed especially close links with scholars in Paris, Munich, North America and Japan (the latter being one of the great centres of Anglo-Saxon scholarship).

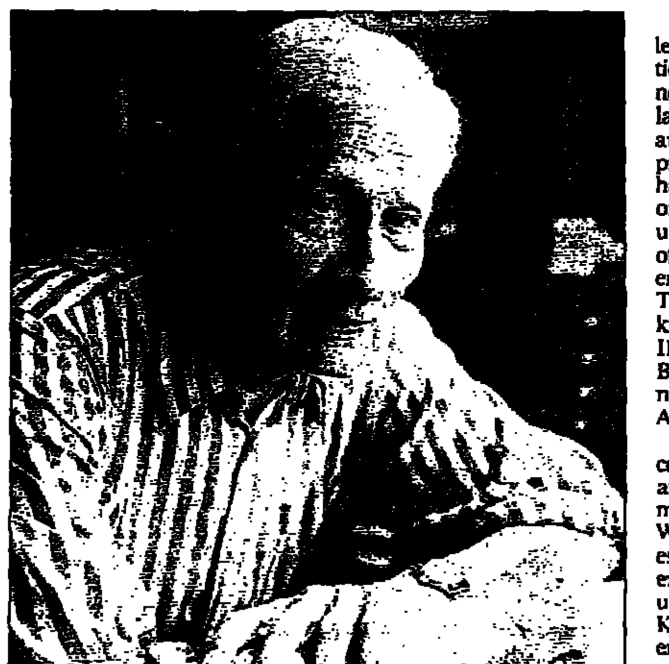
Finding himself in a profession with more than its fair share of scholarly berserkers, Clemoes retained through all provocations the sweet-tempered and generous character that students came to admire. His dedication to rewriting the contributions of others until they matched his own standards of lucidity was as hard to resist as his pressing invitations to a post-lunch round of bowls in the garden of the college which he loved, Emmanuel.

It was not until some years after his retirement that he was able to devote himself wholly to his own scholarship. On the day he died of a heart attack, he was putting the finishing touches to the edition of Aelfric which he had begun forty years ago.

Peter Clemoes is survived by his wife Jean and two sons.

COUNT EIGIL KNUTH

Count Eigil Knuth, Danish explorer, archaeologist, sculptor and author, died in Copenhagen on March 12 aged 92. He was born there on August 8, 1903.



FOR explorers this century it has not been easy to find regions untrodden by European foot. The Arctic island of Greenland, its vast ice-bound wastes dwarfing the Western European continent, provided such an exciting opportunity. It was here that Eigil Knuth was to travel, making the first of more than thirty expeditions in 1932, and the last only a year ago. A veteran explorer, he unearthed traces of previously unknown ancient North American Eskimo or Inuit cultures, dating back more than 5,000 years.

Eigil Knuth was a disciple of the great Danish Arctic explorer and ethnologist Knud Rasmussen (1879-1933) and Norway's Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930), who crossed Greenland in 1888. As a young man, he was inspired to follow the example of these heroes of polar exploration. But he was also an artistic youth and, after graduating from the Danish Academy of Arts in 1924, he spent three years in Italy studying to be a sculptor.

He returned home to take part in the Danish National Museum's excavations of 1,000-year-old Viking settlement ruins in west Greenland in 1932 and 1934. In 1935, he participated as an archaeologist in the Courtauld expedition to the east of the island, and the following year crossed Greenland's vast inland glacier from west to east with the Expédition Française Transgroenland.

It was during the winter of 1936-37 that Knuth, basing himself in Angmagssalik, on the coast of east Greenland, took up sculpture again. He worked on a series of portrait busts of Eskimos which were poetic and sensual in style (and which have recently been donated to the Greenland Home Rule Government).

The war prevented Knuth from visiting Greenland for some years. He spent it in Nazi-occupied Denmark, officially working as an announcer on Danish Radio. Covertly, he also worked in military intelligence for the Danish resistance movement, feeding the Allies with information on German activities by sending coded messages on air. On May 4, 1945, the eve of Denmark's liberation, Knuth was the first Danish voice to be heard broadcasting uncensored on Danish state radio after five bleak years under the Germans.

Two years later, Knuth was leader of the Danish expedition to Peary Land — the northernmost tip of Greenland which had, until Knuth arrived, never seen a ship (all previous visits to the region had been made from the south or west by dog sledge). Knuth unearthed stunning evidence of a pre-hunter Eskimo presence in northern Greenland. This dated back to two periods known as Independence I and II — between 1,000 and 3,000 BC — embracing the age of a nomadic culture known as the Arctic Small Tool tradition.

In 1972 Knuth oversaw the construction of a landing strip at Cape Moltke in northernmost Peary Land, by the Wandell Sea on the approaches to the North Pole. An expeditionary outpost was set up there. The climax of Knuth's career was the discovery in three four-man summer treks from 1987 to 1989 of the ruins of 520 crude circular dwellings along the coast of the Ile de France off northeast Greenland, which cast new light on primitive Arctic civilisation.

Ile de France, a frozen 140-square-mile outcrop with its own ice-cap at a latitude of 77 degrees north, is so called because it was discovered in 1905 by a joint Belgian-French expedition led by Duke Philippe of Orléans (1869-1926), the great-grandson of King Louis Philippe of France. Knuth's own theory about the mysterious site was that it was a coastal colony established by invading Eskimos from both the north and south of Greenland, or perhaps even the American continent, with an economy based on seal and whale-hunting.

The discovery of the settlements along with a mass of artefacts provided archaeologists with new information on the long-lost 2,800-year-old Dorset sea-ice hunting culture. Traces of this had first been unearthed in 1925 at Cape Dorset on Canada's Baffin Island, across the Davis Strait from Greenland.

The round houses, built in ring formation at the Ile de France site, originally had igloo-type walls of block ice, with flagstones forming a mid-passageway. The tent-like roofs were made of animal hide and the central section of the building was surrounded by adjoining rooms built on stone platforms and intended to house the different generations of a family. Soapstone lamps, fuelled by whale blubber and using near-smokeless Arctic moss as wicks, lit the hovels. Stones heated in a central fireplace were used for cooking. Vessels were made of animal skins. All this was proof of the ingenuity of the Inuit people in surviving in the most inhospitable of environments.

Knuth wrote ten books on his Greenland expeditions including (in English) *Archaeology of the Musk Ox Way* (1967). He received numerous honours from the Danes and the Greenlanders, as well as being awarded the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, London, and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's Mungo Park Medal.

Knuth never married.

CHRISTOPHER HEADINGTON

Christopher Headington, composer, pianist and author, died in a skiing accident at Les Houches, Switzerland, on March 19 aged 65. He was born on April 28, 1930.

IN HIS biography of the tenor Peter Pears (published in 1992), Christopher Headington steered a precarious course between describing the often turbulent atmosphere of the Aldeburgh Festival over which Pears and Benjamin Britten presided, and painting a portrait of a man who was both a great singer and a personal friend. But Aldeburgh's sterner critics found the biography disappointing. Headington adroitly ducked controversy, though he did make reference (without comment) to such controversial articles as that in *The Observer* in June 1970, accusing Britten and Pears of holding court at the Suffolk festival.

But it was as a composer rather than a writer that Headington excelled. His music sits comfortably alongside that of William Walton, Lennox Berkeley (with whom he studied) and Benjamin Britten himself.

Among his many works are a lyrical violin concerto (premiered by Ralph Holmes in 1959 and recorded four years ago on the ASV label with Xue Wei as soloist), three string quartets, three piano sonatas and a piano concerto, as well as a ballet which was performed in both Paris and Edinburgh. However, a good deal of it remains neglected despite occasional performances on Radio 3.

Christopher John Magenis Headington was educated at Taunton School and the Royal Academy of Music. He attended master-classes at Dartington in 1963 and taught in schools before joining the BBC presentation department.

In 1965 he was appointed tutor in music at the Oxford University delegacy for extramural studies (since 1971, department for external studies). He made many broadcasts and wrote a monograph entitled *Britten* which he had just revised at the time of his death.

However, while Headington could be industrious, he could also be endearingly indolent. He once turned down the opportunity to join the music department of the University of Surrey because of the vast amount of administration he feared might be involved. It took the combined efforts of several friends to goad him into completing his research for the several books he published, including *The Orchestra and Its Instruments* (1965) and the *Bodley Head History of Western Music* (1974). He was also a regular contributor to *Gramophone* and *Country Life* magazines.

As a pianist, Christopher Headington was talented. He shied away from making too many concert appearances but he released a number of CDs both of 20th-century British piano music and also music of a more romantic nature on the Kingdom label.

An extremely private person, Headington moved to Malaga in southern Spain in the late 1970s in order to pursue his composition in peace. This proved disastrous, not only financially but emotionally. Feeling intensely isolated, he returned to Britain to settle instead in Newton Abbot, Devon.

However, as an examiner for the Associated Board he continued to travel extensively. He was a moderately talented linguist and recently was even heard trying out his newly acquired Cantonese on a waiter in a London restaurant. He was also proficient with computers and last year used the new "Sibelius 7" program to map out an entire symphony in a day.

He never married.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev David Ashforth, Vicar, St Leonard, Balderstone, and Director of Post-Ordination Training, diocese Blackburn: to be also Warden of Readers, same diocese. He will cease to be Director of Post-Ordination Training from August 31.

The Rev Simon Brignall, recently returned from South America (SAMS): to be Team Vicar, Thame Team Ministry w responsiblity for Tetsworth, Adwell w South Weston, Lewknor and Stoke Talmage w Wheatfield (Oxford).

The Rev Alan Cole, Priest-in-Charge, Gamlingay w Hatley St George and East Hatley and Gamlingay Heath (Ely): to be also an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral.

The Rev Arthur Dean, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Margaret, Eastney: to be stipendiary Priest-in-Charge (half-time), St Alban, Copnor (Portsmouth).

The Rev Reg Forse, Assistant Curate (NSM), Christ Church, Gosport: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), St Mary, Alverstoke (Portsmouth).

The Rev John Francis, Curate, St John and St George, Preston: to be Rector, Ribbleton, and Bishop's Adviser for leisure and tourism (Blackburn).

The Rev Timothy Gaden: to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Battersea (Southwark).

The Rev Nigel Genders, Assistant Curate, Christ Church, New Malden (Southwark): to be Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Cockfosters (London).

The Rev Anthony Hawley, Team Rector, Kirkby, Area Dean of Walton and Team Vicar, St Chad, Kirkby (Liverpool): to be also an Honorary Canon of Liverpool Cathedral.

The Rev John Hindley, Priest-in-Charge, Tibrook w Covington and Catworth, Bythorn w Keyston, Priest-in-Charge Great Gidding w Little Gidding and Steeple Gidding w Winwick, and Rural Dean of Leightonstone (Ely): to be also an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral.

The Rev Richard Holroyd, Team Vicar, Wolverton Team Ministry: to be Priest-in-Charge, St Luke, Maidenhead (Oxford).

The Rev John Howe, Canon Custos and Secretary to the Lichfield Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches: to be Master of St John's Hospital, Lichfield.

The Rev David Jones, Rector, Baschurch and Weston Lullingfield w Hordley (Lichfield): to be Ministre/Desservant/Priest-in-Charge, St Luke and St James, Jersey (Winchester).

The Rev Stephen Jones, formerly Vicar, Porthleven and Sithney (Truro): to be Priest-in-Charge, The Ascension, North End (Portsmouth).

The Rev Dr David Miell, Team Vicar, Walton Team Ministry (LEP): to be Team Rector, Upton-cum-Chalvey Team Ministry (LEP), Slough (Oxford), and has resigned as Rural Dean of Milton Keynes.

The Rev Philip Need, Chaplain to the Bishop of Chelmsford: to be Dean of Bocking (Chelmsford).

The Rev Frank Parr, Vicar, Immanuel and All Saints', Oswaldtwistle: to be Vicar, Tunstall, Melling and Leck (Blackburn).

The Rev Rosalind Parrett, Team Vicar, Stantonbury and Willen Team Ministry (LEP), to be Priest-in-Charge, St George, Owlsmoor (Oxford).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Brian Anderson, Chaplain, HM Prison, Parkhurst, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth): retired February 29.

The Rev Cyril Birket, Vicar, St Helen, Overton, Morecambe (Blackburn): to retire April 9.

The Rev William Dodd, Honorary Assistant Curate, St Peter (Furze Platt), Maidenhead (Oxford): resigned February 18.

The Rev Jacob Lewis, Rector, Compton w East Ilsley (Oxford): to resign March 30.

The Rev Leonard Pepper, Team Vicar, High Wycombe Team Ministry (Oxford): to retire March 31.

ON THIS DAY

March 25, 1903

Pierre and Marie Curie discovered in 1898 that pitchblende, when its uranium salts were removed, contained radium. For this work they shared with A. H. Becquerel the 1903 Nobel Prize for Physics.

THE MYSTERY OF RADIUM.

M. Curie, a French physicist of the highest reputation and attainments, has made a communication to the Academy of Sciences which would have been received with absolute incredulity had it been offered on less unimpeachable authority. He finds that a substance of comparatively recent discovery, to which the name of Radium has been given, and in the isolation of which he has had the indefatigable and invaluable assistance of Mme. Curie, possesses the extraordinary property of continuously emitting heat, without combustion, without chemical change of any kind, and without any change to its molecular structure, which remains spectroscopically identical after many months of continuous emission of heat. He finds, further, that Radium maintains its own temperature at a point 1.5deg. Centigrade, or 2.7deg. on our ordinary scale, above its surroundings. The actual quantity of heat evolved is such that the pure Radium salt would melt more than its own weight of ice every hour. Or, again, half a pound of the Radium salt would evolve in one hour heat equal to that produced by the burning of one-third of a cubic foot of hydrogen gas; and this evolution of heat goes on continuously for indefinite periods, leaving the salt at the end of months of activity just as potent as at the beginning. Radium has excited the keenest interest by its power of throwing off rays, vibrations, emanations, or whatever we may call them, which, when received upon a sensitive screen of barium platinocyanide or zinc sulphide, cause it to glow with a phosphorescent light . . .

It is obvious that M. Curie has introduced us to forces of a totally different order of magnitude. Phosphorescence occurs in nature, as in the glow-worm and in certain bacteria, in conditions of energy which is absolutely infinitesimal as compared with what we have to expend to produce light. Hence the phosphorescence of a sensitive screen under the influence of Radium emanations does not necessarily take us beyond a region in which light is an accident of processes infinitely minute. But heat sufficient to raise the mercury in the thermometer by 2.7deg. is a different thing altogether, and when the output of this heat is maintained indefinitely without any visible compensation to the heat-giving body, we are in the presence of a physical effect which is considerable. We have in Radium a substance having the power to gather up and convert into heat some form of ambient energy. Other substances, mostly of high atomic weight, possess its radiant properties to a lesser extent, and research may prove that transparency to the unknown form of energy is merely a question of degree . . .

A small tube containing Radium, if kept in contact with the skin for some hours, or even if carried in the waistcoat pocket, produces an open sore, by destroying the epidermis and the true skin beneath. Its effects do not appear to extend to the subjacent tissues, and the sore remains superficial. On the other hand, Radium emanations act powerfully upon the nerve substance, and cause the death of living things whose nerve centres do not lie deep enough to be shielded from their influence.

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY MARCH 25 1996

NEWS

Four million cattle face slaughter

■ The Government is near deciding to slaughter more than four million cattle in a drastic move to restore confidence in British beef.

Killing animals aged more than two-and-a-half years emerged as ministers' most-favoured option in the crisis caused by the disclosure of possible links between "mad cow" disease and its human form, *Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease* ....**Page 1, 8, 9**

Benefit cheats to be offered amnesty

■ Benefit cheats are to be offered an amnesty to reduce the £3 billion-a-year bill for fraud. The Department of Social Security will experiment with an idea that captured Peter Lilley's imagination after proving a success in New Zealand. Fraudsters will be invited to surrender to the DSS in return for an exemption from prosecution..........**Page 1**

Sinn Fein warning

Martin McGuinness, speaking after Sinn Fein's conference, indicated there was no prospect of an imminent IRA ceasefire unless Britain gave the party "absolute guarantees" that it would convene unconditional all-party talks ....**Page 1**

Currency talks

John Major will meet Kenneth Clarke this week in an attempt to secure the Chancellor's backing for an early pledge that the Government would hold a referendum before joining a European single currency..........**Page 2**

A-level reform

Skills in teamwork and communications are to become requirements for university entry under plans to reform A-levels. The Government's qualifications review will recommend numeracy, computer literacy and problem solving should be taken by all sixthformers..........**Page 2**

Tribal post

Lynne Symonds will leave her Norfolk school to visit Ghana where she will become third in command of the Mamprusi tribe..........**Page 3**

MI5 leak on Internet

A terrorists' "crib sheet" giving detailed information about MI5 installations and military bases in Northern Ireland, together with RUC stations, has been put on the Internet..........**Page 5**

Breast cancer fall

Breast cancer, the greatest scourge of Western world women, is in retreat after three decades in which the toll from the disease mounted to record levels..........**Page 6**

Boost for coalition

The centre-right coalition of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, received a surprise boost after winning the Baden-Württemberg election, preliminary exit polls showed..........**Page 10**

Dole goes to jail

Incredibly for a candidate seeking to shed a dour image, Bob Dole chose to visit California's Death Row..........**Page 10**

Chinese reaction

China was relatively restrained in its reaction to President Lee Teng-hui's 54 per cent win in Saturday's presidential elections in Taiwan, merely reiterating the island was part of China ...**Page 11**

Unwanted conference

After months of diplomatic foreplay, the leaders of the 15 European Union nations gather in Turin on Friday for the grand opening of a treaty negotiation none really wants..........**Page 12**

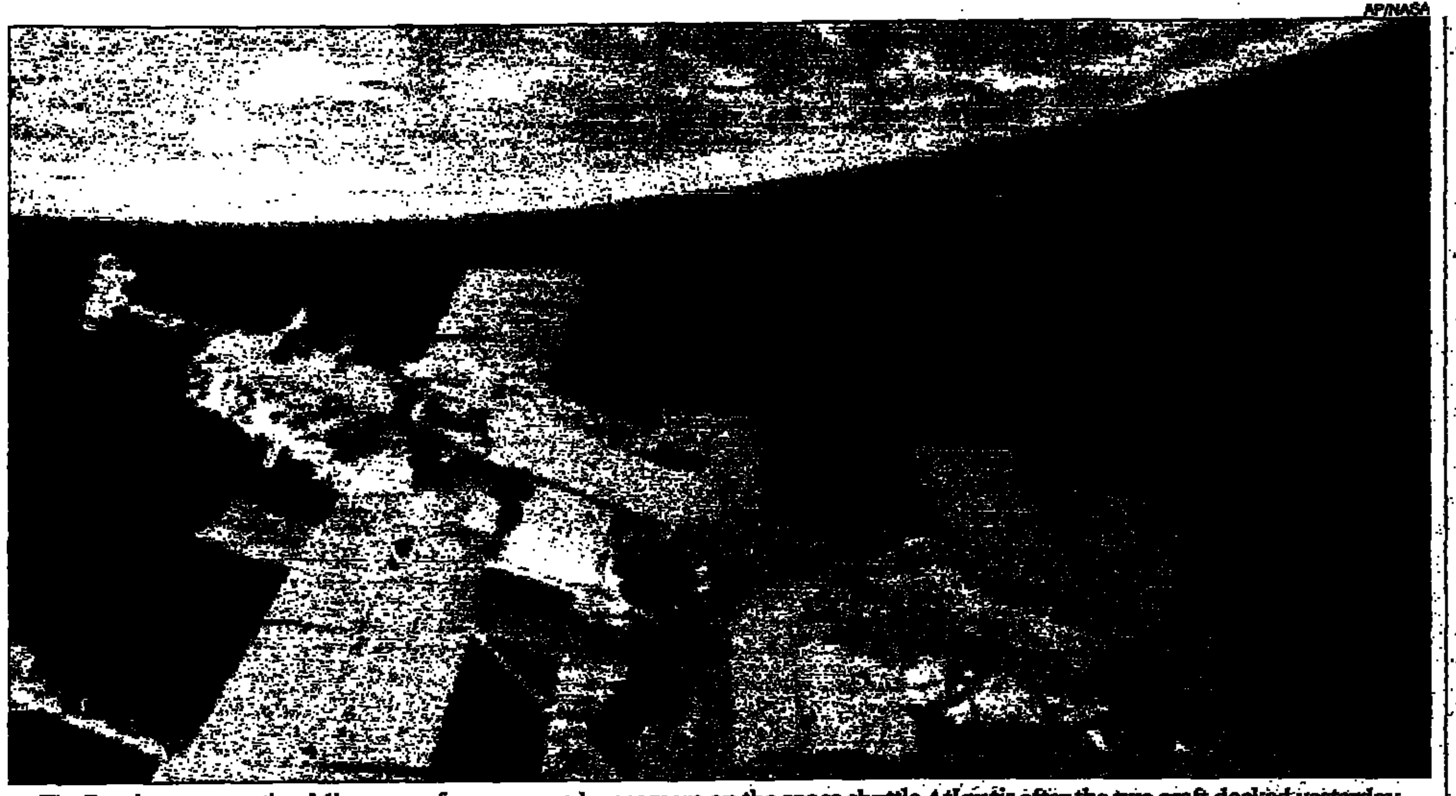
Murder trial opens

A man alleged to be Australia's worst serial killer goes on trial today accused of murdering seven backpackers, including two young Britons..........**Page 13**

Woman to revive flagging Derby

■ One of the great events of the social and sporting calendar's future is being entrusted to a woman. Sue Ellen, 47, has been recruited to revive the fortunes of the Derby, the world's most famous Flat race which dates back to 1780. She will be confirmed this week as managing director of United Racecourses, owner of Epsom, Sandown and Kempton **Page 1**

AP/NASA



The Russian space station Mir as seen from a cargo bay camera on the space shuttle Atlantis after the two craft docked yesterday

BUSINESS

Training cash: Small businesses will be offered grants to train employees by a future Labour government..........**Page 48**

Jet stream: £2 billion of orders could be won by British Aerospace after the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch planemaker..........**Page 48**

Pay claims: Lower inflation has yet to make an impact on pay settlements a study suggests. Incomes Data Services says pay deals are 3 to 4 per cent up on last year's wage levels..........**Page 45**

Three Rs: Britain's bosses are concerned about basic literacy and numeracy skills of job applicants. The Institute of Directors says 79 per cent of company directors are worried by candidates' educational attainments..........**Page 45**

ARTS

Golden touch: Twice, the producer Duncan Kenworthy has proved Hollywood wrong. First with *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the most successful film in British cinema history, and now *Gulliver's Travels*, one of the most watched TV shows in US history..........**Page 16**

US stars: If America still has its Big Five orchestras, then the Cleveland is definitely — and pretty high up in the pecking order, as it showed at the Festival Hall..........**Page 16**

Pop duo: Everything but the Girl have reinvented themselves and, says Alan Jackson, the result is ultimately triumphant..........**Page 17**

Welcome guests: Welsh National Opera makes a brief, but hugely successful, visit to Covent Garden..........**Page 17**

FEATURES

Sexy superstar: Emma Thompson is mocked in Britain as a frump and luvvie. Yet in America she is showered with accolades...**Page 19**

EDUCATION

Testing time: From today, a week-long guide to help you to chart your child's progress through the national curriculum..........**Pages 14, 15**

MIND AND MATTER

Talk, talk: When men and women gather, men steer talk towards work or religion. Why?.....**Page 18**

FOCUS

Special Report on Poland and the Czech Republic, marking the state visits by the Queen....**Pages 38, 39**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ NEW ART
Jacqueline Humphries and her fellow young Americans on show at the Saatchi Collection

■ LAW
Why the Home Secretary's plans for tougher sentencing will not work

[illegible]

Cup final: Aston Villa beat Leeds United 3-0 to carry off the Coca-Cola Cup at Wembley before a 77,000-plus crowd..........**Page 25**

Football: Eric Cantona was on target for Manchester United to beat Tottenham Hotspur 1-0, taking his club three points clear of Newcastle United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership..........**Page 29**

Rugby union: Bath meet Leicester in the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham for the third time in eight years..........**Page 34**

Rugby league: Bradford Bulls surpassed all expectations to beat Leeds and reach the final of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup..........**Page 31**

Golf: Wayne Riley, of Australia, won the Portuguese Open by two strokes. Mark Davis, of Essex, and Martin Gates, of Surrey, finished joint second..........**Page 26**

Athletics: Athletes from African countries dominated the world cross country championships in Cape Town, but Jon Brown produced the best run by a British man in seven years, finishing twelfth..........**Page 27**

Racing: Rough Quest, the favourite, looks certain to line up for the Grand National after pleasing his trainer, Terry Casey, in a weekend *workout*..........**Page 32**

[illegible]

5, 7, 14, 18, 30, 43. Bonus: 28. there were nine winners.

[illegible]

Preview: Ten years on from Chernobyl, and five years after its award-winning film, an extended *Horizon* brings us up to date (BBC2, 8pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss has to settle for "Yap yap" and a quick scamper..........**Page 47**

[illegible]

Food for thought

Food scares can only be better handled by a clearer division of responsibility..........**Page 21**

Right and Mackay

If any marriages are saved by this period of reflection, the Family Law Bill will have been worthwhile..........**Page 21**

Taking the profit

Wealth can be created as effectively in lace-curtained middle-class homes as it was once in smoke-filled factories and darkened mines. This is the message from *Leamington Spa*..........**Page 21**

[illegible]

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Human beings may have been eating BSE-infected animals for hundreds of years. If the BSE agent easily crossed the species barrier, one would expect there to have been many clusters of Creutzfeldt-Jakob, in families and even in whole villages that had consumed the same carcass..........**Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

After the next election, the new Tories will have been trained to serve in government, while the new Labour members will have almost no knowledge of Whitehall. So the rival groups will be prepared for precisely the opposite of what each is likely to face..........**Page 20**

[illegible]

Claude Bourdet, wartime Resistance leader and founder of *Observateur* magazine; **Peter Clemoes**, former Professor of *Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge* University..........**Page 23**

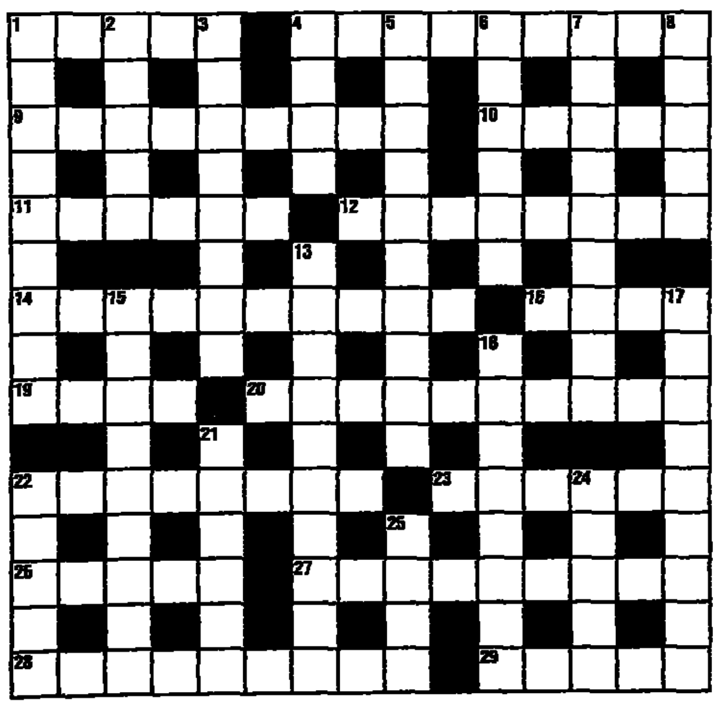
[illegible]

Compensation and the BSE disaster..........**Page 21**

[illegible]

Taiwan's presidential election was an affirmation of democracy, not a declaration of independence. It is important leaders of Taiwan, China and the US recognise the distinction — *The New York Times*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,124



ACROSS
1 Little boy pinches ring, producing utter confusion (5).
4 Terrible din in dog's part of house (3-6).
9 Lack of purpose misspent time ultimately represented (9).
10 Prospect of bombs confronting volunteers (5).
11 Sportsman who cares for the game? (6).
12 Second payment after a year for stock (8).
14 Noble artist with old car in lac (10).
16 Passage for audition in this key (4).
19 Catch sight of close of play on very special channel (4).
20 One noted for longevity and plenty of bottle! (10).
22 Move fast on motorway, giving wrong impression (8).
23 Note chaffinch, say, pulling back part of leaf (6).
26 Exchange vehicle (5).
27 Secure a university permit for transport (9).
28 Independent old writer not restricted by stroke (9).
29 Coach travels initially into Waterloo backwards (5).

DOWN
1 Sound European officer's final defeat (9).
2 A politician the French found generous (5).
3 Knife drunk held up in fight (8).
4 Raised money for auditors (4).
5 Why one lacking confidence was kept in? How feeble! (5-5).
6 Provide fashionable underwear (6).
7 Notice upwardly mobile man introducing himself to girl (9).
8 Exceedingly good example of a marine mammal (5).
13 Conceal latitude in film script (10).
15 Cockney entertainer in corrupt act of deception (9).
17 Someone putting on show — hire box, perhaps, in which to see it (9)
18 Hopeful snake managed to get into it (8).
21 What can stop these vehicles? (6).
22 Distinctive idea gives rise to suitable honour (5).
24 Placed in barrel, it's fired again (5).
25 Poet throws out daughter for a bet (4).

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,123 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For regional forecast, dial 0891 500 followed by code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is 39p per min (cheap rate), 49p other times

AA ROADWATCH

For AA traffic/roadworks, dial 0336 401 followed by code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is 39p per min (cheap rate), 49p other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.52 am
Sun sets: 6.23 pm
Moon sets 12.09 am
Moon rises 9.14 am

First quarter March 27

London 6.23 pm to 5.49 am
Bristol 6.33 pm to 5.59 am
Edinburgh 6.37 pm to 5.59 am
Manchester 6.32 pm to 5.56 am
Penzance 6.44 pm to 6.11 am

FLIGHT SAVERS
LONDON TO PARIS from £70 return.
LONDON TO COPENHAGEN from £149 return.
LONDON TO EDINBURGH from £58 return.
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FORECAST

☐ **General:** South Wales and southern England will have thick cloud and rain, but drier later in far southwest. The northeast will have drizzle at first. Remaining parts should be dry.

Southeast Scotland will start cloudy with some patchy drizzle. The rest of Scotland and Northern Ireland should be dry and with sunny spells.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales:** cloud thickening with rain spreading from southwest. Wind easterly, fresh to strong. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, Central N England:** mainly dry but cloudy. Wind easterly, fresh. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England:** cloudy with rain, perhaps heavy at times, drier later. Wind easterly, strong to near gale. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** dry with *some bright or sunny spells*. Wind easterly, moderate to fresh, locally strong. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** cloudy with patchy drizzle, especially at first. Wind northeasterly, moderate. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mostly dry, sunny spells. Wind light to moderate, north to NE. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Outlook:** becoming drier, first in south and then *throughout*.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	2.2	-	8	46	c	Liverpool	-	0.07	8	46	r
Anglesey	3.2	0.32	13	55	r	London	-	-	8	46	du
Aviemore	2.0	-	8	46	b	Lowestoft	-	-	6	43	du
Belfast	-	0.05	7	45	r	Manchester	0.1	0.06	9	48	r
Birmingham	-	0.02	9	48	c	Margate	-	-	6	43	fg
Bognor R	4.0	-	13	55	b	Minehead	-	-	11	52	c
Bournem'th	-	-	14	57	b	Morecambe	-	0.03	8	46	r
Bristol	0.1	-	13	55	c	Newcastle	-	-	6	43	du
Cardiff	-	-	12	54	c	Newquay	2.2	-	x	x	c
Colwyn Bay	-	0.24	10	50	c	Norwich	-	-	6	43	c
Cromer	-	-	5	41	du	Oxford	2.4	-	12	54	b
Eastbourne	1.3	-	8	46	c	Penzance	5.0	-	13	55	b
Edinburgh	5.8	-	9	48	b	Poole	4.6	-	15	59	b
Eskdalemuir	-	-	4	39	c	Prestatyn	x	0.15	10	50	c
Exmouth	2.7	-	13	55	b	Ross-o-wye	-	-	10	50	c
Fishguard	5.1	0.08	14	57	s	Salcombe	1.4	-	11	52	c
Folkestone	1.5	-	7	45	c	Sandown	1.6	-	9	48	c
Glasgow	7.0	-	9	48	b	Saunton Snd	1.1	-	16	61	c
Guernsey	7.1	-	15	59	s	Scarboro'	-	-	5	41	du
Hastings	1.4	-	9	48	c	Shanklin	x	x	x	x	b
Hayling I.	3.5	-	13	55	b	Shrewsbury	-	0.13	9	48	r
Herne Bay	-	-	6	43	du	Southend	2.2	-	10	50	b
Hove	7.1	-	14	57	s	Southport	0.6	0.07	9	48	du
Hunstanton	1.0	0.01	7	45	c	Southsea	1.1	-	13	55	c
Isle of Man	-	0.05	7	45	r	Stornoway	7.7	0.02	8	46	s
Jersey	5.6	-	17	63	b	Swanage	-	-	8	46	du
Kinloss	8.5	-	9	48	s	Teignmouth	0.4	-	11	52	c
Lerwick	2.5	0.01	9	48	c	Torquay	0.8	-	11	52	c
Leuchars	8.1	-	8	46	s	Ventnor	3.7	-	10	50	b
Littlehmptn	3.8	-	13	55	b	Weymouth	4.6	-	12	54	b

ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	s	C'phagn	2	36	c	Malaga	19	66	f	S Paulo	23	73	c
Akrotiri	14	57	f	Dublin	7	45	d	Malta	18	64	s	Salzburg	15	59	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	12	54	f	Melb'rne	21	70	-	Santiago	31	88	s
Algiers	32	90	s	Faro	20	68	f	Mexico C	18	64	d	Seoul	5	41	f
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Florence	17	63	c	Miami	20	68	f	Sing'por	31	88	f
Athens	12	54	f	Frankfurt	13	55	c	Milan	13	55	c	St'kholm	4	39	s
B Aires	22	72	r	Funchal	19	66	f	Montreal	0	32		Strasb'rg	15	59	s
Bahrain	22	72	f	Geneva	17	63	s	Moscow	4	39	s	Sydney	22	72	f
Bangkok	35	95	f	Gibraltar	17	63	c	Munich	16	61	f	Tangier	21	70	f
Barbados	30	86	f	Helsinki	3	37	s	N Delhi	27	81	s	Tel Aviv	10	50	r
Barcelona	16	61	f	Hong K	23	73	f	N York	5	41	c	Tenerife	23	73	f
Beirut	12	54	f	Innsbrck	15	59	f	Nairobi	27	81	f	Tokyo	10	50	f
Belgrade	15	59	s	Istanbul	6	43	f	Naples	18	64	f	Toronto	-3	27	c
Berlin	6	43	c	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	16	61	s	Tunis	21	70	s
Bermuda	19	66	r	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	3	37	s	Valencia	17	63	c
Biarritz	30	65	s	Karachi	x			Paris	19	66	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	f
Borde'x	17	63	f	L Angels	15	59	c	Peking	10	50	f	Venice	11	52	s
Brussels	8	46	c	L Palmas	22	72	f	Perth	25	77	s	Vienna	10	50	r
Budapest	9	48	f	Le Tquet	14	57	f	Prague	9	48	c	Warsaw	4	39	c
Cairo	13	55	r	Lisbon	14	57	f	Reykjavik	-2	28	c	Wash'ton	6	43	c
Cape Tn	x			Locarno	x			Rhodes	14	57	s	Wel'ngton	X		
Ch'church	x			Luxembg	14	57	s	Rio de J	27	81	s	Zurich	19	66	s
Chicago	5	41	s	Luxor	24	75	s	Riyadh	25	77	f				
Cologne	11	52	c	Madrid	16	61	f	Rome	15	59	f				
Corfu	16	61	f	Majorca	22	72	s	S Fr'sco	11	52	c				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

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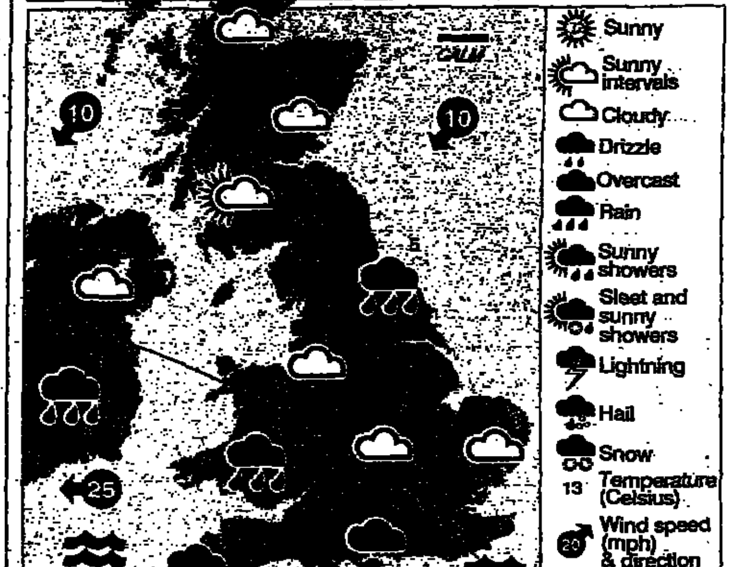
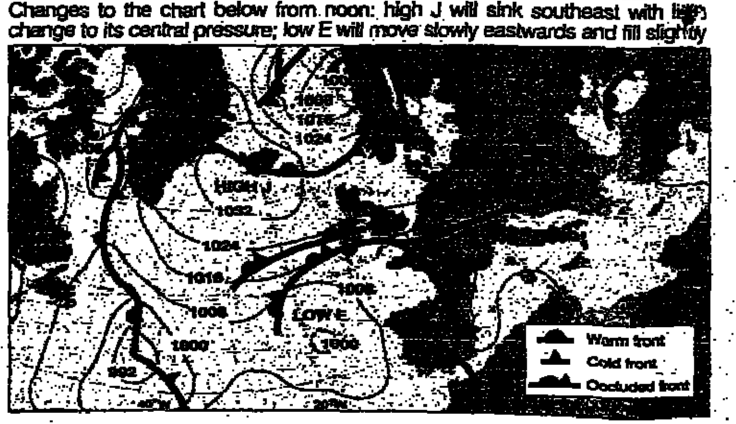


Changes to the chart below from noon: high J will sink southeast with little change to its central pressure; low E will move slowly eastwards and fill slightly



[illegible]

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:13	6.9	5:31	6.7	Leith	6:19	4.8	6:47	4.6
Aberdeen	4:53	3.7	5:18	3.7	Liverpool	2:34	8.5	2:59	8.3
Avonmouth	10:34	11.7	10:44	11.4	Lowestoft	0:51	2.3	1:07	2.1
Belfast	2:53	3.3	3:22	3.2	Margate	3:34	4.5	3:52	4.3
Cardiff	10:34	10.4	10:43	10.2	Milford Haven	9:51	6.1	10:05	5.9
Devonport	9:01	4.8	9:13	4.8	Newquay	8:45	5.7	9:06	5.5
Dover	2:31	6.3	2:56	6.0	Oban	9:03	3.3	9:08	3.3
Dublin (N Wall)	3:07	3.6	3:39	3.5	Penzance	8:14	4.9	8:35	4.8
Falmouth	8:55	4.4	9:21	4.4	Portland	9:59	1.6	10:08	1.6
Greenock	3:56	3.4	4:25	3.3	Portsmouth	2:46	4.4	3:12	4.2
Harwich	3:09	3.7	3:28	3.6	Shoreham	2:37	5.7	3:03	5.5
Holyhead	1:40	5.0	2:07	4.8	Southampton	2:11	4.1	2:30	4.0
Hull (Albert D)	9:42	6.5	10:09	6.4	Swansea	9:52	8.4	10:04	8.2
Ilfracombe	9:33	8.2	9:48	8.0	Tees	7:26	4.7	7:49	4.6
King's Lynn	9:57	6.6	10:22	5.5	Walton-on-Naze	3:04	4.0	3:22	3.8

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[illegible]

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mawgan, Cornwall, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Valley, Anglesey, 0.32in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Hebrides, 9.5hr.

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GOLF

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Another successful day in the life of Riley

RUGBY LEAGUE

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Paris puts spring back into Super League

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Leicester halt march of Exiles on way to cup final

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Pregnant pause interrupts Capstick's progress

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 25 1996

Milosevic shoots past Pemberton to put Aston Villa on their way to a comfortable 3-0 victory over Leeds United in the Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Winners set record as Coca-Cola Cup final falls flat for Leeds

Villa profit from import policy

Aston Villa 3
Leeds United 0

By Rob Hughes
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THREE splendidly struck goals, the first imported from Serbia, the second from the only Brummie on the field and the third courtesy of Tobago, comprehensively gave the Coca-Cola Cup to Aston Villa for a record fifth time.

The Midlands club has almost claimed ownership of this trophy, scoring more goals, winning more matches than any other. And the Villa contingent in the 77,056 crowd on an overcast day at Wembley Stadium was never given cause to believe that Leeds United were their equals. Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, was always going to shake hands with Andy Townsend first.

Very early on, Townsend and Mark Draper won the contest for midfield supremacy with Gary McAllister. Given that Tony Yeboah, the other world-class Leeds player, was not offered an opportunity, never took a pass in a goalscoring position, the overrunning of the white shirts was total.

"The side who are first to get the ball down and play will win," McAllister had forecast as he stood admiring the green Wembley carpet. He, in fact, was almost the first to do that, embarking on a 70-yard sprint with Townsend snapping at his heels, then gliding away from McGrath, and bringing Andy Gray into play. The youngest man on the field, just 18 but with a long Leeds United family pedigree, overhit his intended cross.

But do not take it out on the boy. With some hypnotic footwork, he was, for spells in both halves, the finest and most confident talent Leeds had on the pitch. We marvelled at the way he ghosted his foot over the ball, stole a yard of space from Southgate, ran on ten yards and then tried a swirling shot; he aimed for the top left-hand corner, and was betrayed by the wind.

Aston Villa, without Tommy Johnson who failed to report fully fit, had a flatter look to their midfield than when Johnson is with them. Nevertheless their formation was a familiar one, while Leeds's was a confusion. The professor of tactics, Howard Wilkinson, was to try three separate methods, all of them shrugged aside by Villa.

It did not help that Wilkinson chose Gary Speed on the left. Speed had fractured a cheekbone a month ago, the doctors had advised a three-month lay-off and bravery was also foolhardiness as he tried but failed to impose his full range of skills on the game. It was a poor clearance from him that offered Yorke the first opening in the fourteenth minute.

Yorke slipped the ball through Pemberton's legs before shooting with some power, but the angle was acute. Lukic stood up solidly and expertly at the near post, and blocked the shot with his chest.

The denial was not prolonged. In the twentieth minute, Savo Milosevic used his left foot in the manner the folks back home in Belgrade were accustomed to — but we have barely seen since his £3.5 million move to the English Midlands. Townsend had intercepted the ball from Speed and, from the halfway line, directed it to the feet of the big target-man from Serbia.

Milosevic had Pemberton in front of him and, when Pemberton backed off, he produced a shot from 22 yards that curled as if guided by radar high into the net. It was a wonderful strike, followed by an adrenalin rush that took the 22-year-old to the halfway line, his colleagues in pursuit.

As Gareth Southgate, himself a newcomer to the club this season, had said, Milosevic has taken cruel criticism for a young man coming into a land where the pace, the bustle of football makes it as foreign a game as the language.

We were to reach half-time with more bookings than shots on target. Wetherall, for body-checking Yorke, Ford for kicking Townsend's shin, and McGrath for scything down Yeboah. Late in the game, Southgate was booked for another foul on Brolin.

Leeds had tried, principally through the invention of Gray and occasionally through the ability of Kelly, to cross the ball from the right, but though McAllister once rose majestically to meet a corner by Speed, Bosnich comfortably cleared the danger. Leeds had in fact been confined to a single shot until, reorganised at half-time, they at last produced a flowing movement from McAllister to Palmer, then on via Speed to Gray. He dragged the ball inside Charles, though his shot was impulsive and easily blocked.

And then, ruining the only good spell that Leeds mounted, Villa broke away to score again. It was the 56th minute as Wright burst down the left. His cross induced panic in Radebe, who attempted to do what Yeboah normally does, to hurl his body acrobatically in the air and clear overhead.

The ball flew straight to Ian Taylor, a player whose childhood had been spent supporting Villa from the Holte End. Taylor met the ball full on the volley and, from 15 yards, struck it with rare power and accuracy. Lukic, for the second time, was beaten before he could move a muscle.

There were forlorn gestures from Leeds — the introduction of Brolin, the attempt by Palmer to head for goal — before Aston Villa rounded off proceedings emphatically. It was McAllister, of all people, who made a hash of a pass in midfield and gave the ball directly to Draper, who quickly transferred it to the feet of Milosevic.

The Serb jinked, drew Pemberton and Wetherall to him, and then side-footed the ball to Yorke who, 12 yards out, lashed it high into the net. A merciless finish from the Tobagan, a merciless day against the White Rose.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, P McGrath, G Southgate — G Charles, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, A Wright — D Yorke, S Milosevic

LEEDS UNITED (3-4-1-1): J Lukic — D Wetherall, J Pemberton, L Radebe (sub T Brolin 66min) — G Kelly, G McAllister, M Ford (sub: B Deane, 46), G Speed — A Gray, A Yeboah.

Referee: R Hart

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Humbling for City 28
Results and tables 30

Cantona puts United clear

By Our Sports Staff

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, paid tribute to Eric Cantona, who scored an outstanding goal in his side's 1-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford yesterday. The result took United three points clear of Newcastle United — who have two games in hand — at the top of the FA Carling Premiership.

Cantona struck decisively with an individual effort after 50 minutes — the fifth successive match in which the Frenchman has scored and his fifteenth goal of the season — as United make a charge for their third Premiership title in four years and their second double in three seasons.

Cantona: outstanding

Ferguson said: "Eric is a marvellous player. He was up for it today and over the past few weeks his performances for us have been getting better and better. It's immeasurable — how can you quantify that goal? It could mean us winning the title."

Steve Bruce, the United captain, also made a glowing reference to Cantona, whose strike took the wind out of Tottenham after they had dominated the first-half exchanges. "Eric is a unique talent and he seems always to be there, or thereabouts, in big games."

Bruce added: "We knew it was going to be difficult, but credit to Spurs because they played very well and came at us and attacked us. It's going to be tense."

However, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, left Old Trafford complaining that his team had become the latest victims of refereeing injustice at the ground. Francis felt that his side should have been awarded a corner seconds before Cantona broke away to score.

"It was a corner — everyone knew it was a corner. Andy Sinton had gone to take the corner — all of a sudden they are on the attack," he said.

United stride on, page 29

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Red-eyed by down-to-earth sports marathon

TV ACTION REPLAY

NICK SZCZEPANIK

Anyone who thinks they need a satellite dish to watch non-stop sport is clearly unable to read a television guide — and probably needs an optician. I may need one, as well, after spending most of Saturday in a marathon of terrestrial television sports-viewing that took in 27 disciplines, not including *Big Break*.

There was speed skating, sled-dog racing, Sumo, ski jumping, snooker — and all before 9am, in Channel 4's breathless *Transworld Sport*, along with ice hockey, IndyCar racing, windsurfing, yachting and more.

Channel 4 racing's programme, *The Morning Line*, was comparatively relaxed, and is one of those programmes that is watchable whether one finds its subject interesting or not, although John McCririck's novelty value wore off long ago. It was like eavesdropping on a private discussion as experts argued over prospects: Tony Stafford, the top tipster, explained the alternatives to sticking a pin in the *Sporting Life*. But just when you itched to take Ladbrokes to the cleaners, there was universal disagreement over the William Hill Lincoln Handicap; pins, apparently, had their place after all.

After *The Greatest*, which attempts to compare the incomparable, there was *NBA 24/7*, aimed at those followers of basketball who own the shoes and now want to know something about the sport: but they will not have learned too much here, however.

I approached the fourth hour with curiosity. After *Serie A's* previous strikebound weekend, would *Gazetta Football Italia* have anything to report? Alfresco as usual, James Richardson, in a waterside café, introduced midweek European action. A tough job, but someone has to do it. Paul Ince, meanwhile, revealed a political awareness expected of footballers: the England player had no idea whatever of the issues behind the strike in which he had been involved.

Over on BBC1, *Grandstand* fielded some fine commentators — tribute was paid to Alan Weeks, retiring from the microphone after many years of describing triple axels to a perplexed public. We also heard the professional's own favourite, racing's Peter O'Sullevan, who manages to convey the mounting excitement of a close finish while still speaking English.

On the other hand, one interviewer's constant reference to the extreme age of Sarah Hardcastle, 26, swimming's surprise Olympic hopeful and apparent sporting geriatric, was vaguely disquieting. Indeed, swimming and racing have much in common as television sport. In both cases, there is a lengthy preamble as the camera ranges over the competitors; a brief race, often coming down to a matter of a short head between winner and second, with the rest nowhere.

Then there was ice dancing. If this is sport, then so is ballroom dancing. No serious sportsman would consider turning out in something like that, Premiership goalkeepers excepted.

I began to wonder, however, who I was sharing the experience with. The afternoon Bradford-Leeds rugby league match presumably drew a large audience, but how many had tuned in at 8.15am to catch ten seconds of aerial skiing? And who turns on to watch Olympic swimming trials or cross country running?

Relatives of those taking part, I imagine: almost any activity can be involving if you have an interest in the competitors. But there was nothing riding on the events for me. The draw for the snooker world championship was the last straw. After nine hours nonstop, I could not face figure skating on BBC2.

A long, mental-health break later, I was in front of the box for *Match of the Day*. As an epilogue, it only served to remind me that at least half a dozen colleagues had been out in the fresh air enjoying top-class professional sport — plus Bolton v Sheffield Wednesday. But I bet they were sorry they missed the ice dancing.

Riley regains his sense of direction

FROM MEL WEBB IN LISBON

WAYNE RILEY, known to other PGA European Tour golfers as "Radar", has had little trouble finding his bearings at the Aroeira course just outside Lisbon for most of this week, but yesterday his powers of navigation were almost found wanting before he took the Portuguese Open with a total of 271, 13 under par.

European Tour players are much given to bestowing nicknames on their fellow players: it is a habit that smacks slightly of the fourth form remove of Billy Bunter, but it is, on the whole, a harmless pastime.

Thus it was that Riley was given his sobriquet after a character in the cult American situation comedy of the Vietnam War, *M.A.S.H.* He is said to bear a more than passing resemblance to the man, but the fact that he shares his surname is reason enough for his peers.

He used to be a wild man, but is now a mild man, and has been transformed from a character who believed in keeping the cup of life filled to over-brimming into a hardworking and dedicated professional. This was his second European victory in as many seasons, and an ambition, stated earlier in the tournament, to be a prolific winner all over the world is beginning to look attainable.

The Surrey-based Australian, 33, who had a closing round of 70, took the title by two shots from Mark Davis and Martin Gates, each of whom had closed to one behind at one point, in a final round that got off to a delayed start. Nearly three hours were lost after a brief but violent thunderstorm that left fairways on the already damp course saturated.

Scores 36

Andy McFee, the tournament director, said that he needed five hours to get the tournament finished. If play was not possible by 2pm, he added, he would not be able to get all the players around the course, and a repeat of the recent experience in Johannesburg, when play continued on the Monday, was on the cards. In the nick of time, the sun returned and McFee and the players beat the clock — just.

Riley betrayed, little in his facial expression, but flirted more than once with defeat. He was four strokes ahead after ten holes and seemed to have closed the door on his nearest rivals.

If he had, he had not latched it properly, and Davis, playing in the group ahead of him, mounted a serious challenge through the back nine. He picked up one shot to par to the turn, then eagled the 10th, birdied the 12th and birdied the 17th.

Riley, meanwhile, was also one under par for the day going through the 9th, and when he birdied the 10th he seemed to have the tournament in his pocket on 15 under par. Being the sober-sided chap he claims to be these days, he was probably not counting chickens. If he was, he was making a terrible mistake.

He dropped a shot on the 12th and when he let another slip away on the 16th he was only a single shot ahead of Davis. Davis needed a birdie on the last hole to put himself into a play-off but bogeyed the hole instead; the Australian's two-stroke advantage had been restored.

A drive that split the fairway on the last, and a second shot safely onto the green, were followed by two putts and victory. The radar had clicked back on at precisely the right moment.

JOSÉ MANUEL RIBEIRO

Riley considers the line of a putt on the way to victory in the Portuguese Open yesterday

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RAC

Davies stakes out territorial claim

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX

LAURA DAVIES wanted the wind to blow throughout the final round of the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley yesterday but the day dawned calm, the sky was blue and it looked like perfect weather for low scoring.

"The wind makes the course tougher and I always think I play better on tough courses," Davies, aiming to win here for the third year in succession, said. She had given herself every chance with a third round of 69, four under par, on a day when the wind gusted up to 25mph and the field averaged 76.2 strokes. That left the world No 1 on 213, six under, three strokes behind Kristal Parker-Gregory, a native of Ohio familiar to followers of the European Tour but a stranger to victory on either side of the Atlantic.

Married to a musician, Parker-Gregory, who had a couple of third places in her time in Europe but has not finished higher than twentieth in the United States, had only two bogeys in her round, a tally matched by Davies.

The Englishwoman, who missed a putt of 18 inches on her last hole on Friday, claimed then she had no hope of winning while putting the way she was. But yet another change of putter — her third in three days — worked the oracle. Using the tried and tested Maruman putter she had abandoned because of its indifferent performance in Tucson the week before (she missed the cut), Davies had five birdies on the first nine, to go out in 31.

After limping down the first fairway with feet blistered, she insisted, by golf shoes, not the previous night's game of basketball, she hit an eight-iron to two inches at the 1st, so there was no strain on her stroke.

The wind was so strong she reached the 4th, a 485-yard par five, with a drive and a six-iron and secured an eagle three from 25 feet. She also birdied the 5th, 6th and 8th, to remind anyone who had forgotten that this particular piece of the West was her territory.

The 5th, a par three of 141 yards over water, where Davies's eight-iron tee-shot stopped three inches short of the hole, illustrated the problems of the day. There was only one other two, by Joan Pitcock, who hit 80 other shots.

Having negotiated the front nine to her satisfaction, Davies played the par-five 10th conservatively and took six. She also dropped a shot at the short 11th but had the bonus of a birdie three at the treacherous 17th, where she holed from 30 feet.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	80	210	fair	spring	slushy	sun	6	16/3
(Good spring skiing: some slush on lowest runs)								
AUSTRIA								
St Anton	50	220	fair	varied	slush	sun	11	23/3
(Snow on upper runs good, lower becoming slushy)								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	130	170	good	heavy	worn	sun	5	22/3
(Very warm, lower slopes becoming very worn/slushy)								
Chamonix	35	245	good	varied	worn	sun	15	22/3
(Snow still in good shape at altitude: slush low down)								
Flaine	50	230	good	varied	slush	fine	5	22/3
(Skiing good high up in Flaine Bowl, slush at village)								
Tignes	110	200	good	heavy	slush	sun	10	22/3
(Good snow above 2,500m, turning slushy below)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	145	330	good	heavy	slushy	fine	9	22/3
(Pistes still generally good despite warm weather)								
SWITZERLAND								
Verbier	20	160	good	varied	slushy	fine	8	22/3
(Spring conditions: good snow above 2000m)								

Source. Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Harris wears down opponent in final

DEL HARRIS, the England No 1, crowned his return to the top of professional squash in the most forceful manner yesterday by winning the Equitable Life Super Series final 10-8, 7-9, 9-4, 6-9, 9-2 against Brett Martin, of Australia, at the Galleria in Hatfield, Hertfordshire (Colin McQuillan writes).

Only an ankle turned in a heavy, front-court collision at 3-2 in the fourth game reduced the confrontation from the highest levels of athletic endeavour. That game went to the Australian as he opted for decisive adventure instead of movement. But the fifth went to Harris as he revealed an uncharacteristic degree of ruthlessness to exploit the further reaches of the court against an opponent who eventually could only leap awkwardly into the corners.

"This is the best consolation for losing the world open final," Harris said. "I had to get mean in the fifth. You saw what he did to me when I let him have room to make shots in the fourth."

Doyle buries hatchet

CYCLING: Tony Doyle, the former world pursuit champion, who was elected president of the British Cycling Federation (BCF) last December, and the executive board agreed to bury their differences of the past 3½ months at a special meeting of the BCF national council in Birmingham (Peter Bryan writes).

Manchester's delegates wanted the national council's support for a resolution to discontinue all legal proceedings brought by the BCF against Doyle. The motion was amended to include wording that Doyle should act similarly over all legal proceedings against the BCF and members of the board and was carried overwhelmingly with only three votes cast against. Doyle confirmed that he was prepared to remain president and work alongside the board.

Henman makes exit

TENNIS: Sergi Bruguera, right, the No 10 seed from Spain, beat Tim Henman, of Great Britain, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the second round of the Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne, Florida, on Saturday. Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, lost in straight sets to Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, 6-4, 7-6. Thomas Muster, the world No 1, lost 7-6, 6-4 to the unseeded Nicolas Pereira, of Venezuela.

Hopley leads England

RUGBY UNION: The England squad for this weekend's Hong Kong Sevens includes six of the 1993 party that won the inaugural World Sevens at Murrayfield. Only Bath, who play Bristol on Saturday, and Northampton, who face Blackheath, contribute more than one player.. Damian Hopley is captain.

ENGLAND SEVENS SQUAD: A Adebayo (Bath), J Sleightholme (Bath), T Stimpson (West Hartlepool), N Beal (Northampton), A Healey (Orrell), D Scully (Wakefield), D Hopley (Wasps, captain), T Rodber (Northampton), C Sheasby (Harlequins), N Back (Leicester)

Hawks flying high

ICE HOCKEY: The British championship play-off games on Saturday threw up a surprise in Group A and settled Group B, in which Humberside Hawks beat Durham Wasps 6-4 to join the Wasps in the semi-finals at Wembley next weekend. In Group A, Nottingham Panthers beat Sheffield Steelers 3-0, Scott O'Connor saving 46 shots for his shut-out. This took the Panthers to the top of the group and left the Steelers needing one point from their final game, at home to Basingstoke Bison, to join them in the semi-finals.

Fahey crushes Davies

REAL TENNIS: Robert Fahey, of Tasmania, retained his world title in Melbourne, defeating the former champion, Wayne Davies, by seven sets to one overall, a scoreline which belies the quality of the match. Fahey, who started the second day needing only three more sets for victory, looked slightly tentative at the start as Davies, the New York professional, forced and volleyed immaculately, taking full advantage of some loose play from his opponent to take the set 6-5. From then on, however, Fahey raised his game.

McRaes land double

MOTOR RALLYING: The McRae family scored a notable double in the Vauxhall Rally of Wales on Saturday. Alister McRae, right, the younger brother of the world champion, Colin, won the main rally in a four-wheel drive Ford Escort Cosworth, while their father, Jimmy, five times the British champion, captured the corresponding historic event in a Lotus Cortina.

Wales eye grand slam

RUGBY UNION: Wales beat England 9-3 in the under-19 international at St Helen's, Swansea, yesterday, with three penalty goals from Jarvis, their stand-off half, who is the understudy to Neil Jenkins at Pontypridd, to one by Simpson for England. It was the Wales team's ninth consecutive win in two seasons and, having already accounted for Italy and France this year, they are now on their way to recording their second consecutive grand slam. The encounter with Scotland next month is the final game.

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RFU clears rebels out of congested war zone

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

WHILE English rugby's incipient rebellion was reduced to a murmur at Birmingham yesterday, the main battle remains to be fought. The Rugby Football Union's (RFU) handling of its second special general meeting was far more successful than the first attempt ten weeks ago but today, just 24 hours later, it must find some accord with its leading clubs.

The rank-and-file of English rugby — given that the content of the meeting was largely West Country in origin it may be likened to Monmouth's rebellion — were justified in their appeal, in January, on behalf of "their" game.

Yesterday's subsidence, in the face of the RFU's insistence that every club had the right to decide on the future of the open game in England, was equally predictable if the sport's authority is to be maintained.

Bath go through 34

The RFU, better briefed and steered calmly through the shoal of 20 resolutions by Bob Rogers, its game regulations officer, found support for the broad principle of an open, seamless game.

They can expect a stronger challenge in London today, when they resume talks with representatives of the first and second division clubs that were adjourned after five hours last Thursday without any obvious progress being made on such crucial issues as player contracts and playing structures.

This is in strict contrast with the meeting on Saturday in Cardiff between the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) and its leading clubs. To its surprise, the WRU found a substantial degree of unanimity over European and Anglo-Welsh proposals for next season, with the home-and-away principle of what is now the Heineken League possibly being rescinded.

"It was made clear that any negotiation would be done by the union and there was no argument," Vernon Pugh, the WRU chairman, said. That might not be the case today, so strongly do England's clubs seek to control their own commercial and playing structures; indeed the seeds of conflict may be increased as Fran Cotton remains a member of the RFU negotiating panel.

Cotton, the former England prop who now chairs the North's playing committee, took the oportunity in Birmingham yesterday to challenge the motives of the leading clubs. Proposing a divisional structure as the best way to guarantee future success at international level, Cotton said: "The club posturing is driven by three or four clubs or, should I say, three or four individuals within those clubs. The language coming from those clubs is disenfranchising their own members. Those clubs are not united and, in most cases, are financially weak.

"We are convinced that the RFU would have the support of the vast majority of the game if it took a firm stance now to control the first division clubs and ensure that democracy prevails." As his audience included a former playing colleague, Peter Wheeler, of Leicester, who is now in the vanguard of the clubs' drive for commercial prosperity, the potential for disagreement remains as strong as ever.

Democracy, at least, has had its day. David Hiles, the secretary of Pinner and Grammarians, who described the first special meeting as a shambles, congratulated the RFU on its organisation. "Our task it to persuade the senior clubs to stay with us, to work with us and remember the roots from which they came," he said.

"What I want from senior players is for them to become heroes for my school pupils to look up to. There are too many anti-heroes in today's society. I want people who rise to the top to realise what they have to live up to in terms of standards and behaviour."

Hiles received a rousing reception before the meeting ground out details of player registration — which will now require a seven-day clearance and no fee — and accepted the RFU's recommendation for a new disciplinary body to deal with high-profile cases. The union, after receiving advice from the Football Association, regarded this as critical given the potential for litigation now implicit in a professional game.

Kwan, the American ice skater, displays excellent balance on her way to the world championship gold medal

Kwan's perfect answer secures title

From John Hennessy in Edmonton

THE curtain came down on the world ice skating championships at the Coliseum here on Saturday evening with a battle royal between two gifted teenagers, between East and West, between a Chinese American and a Chinese Chinese.

When the dust settled Michelle Kwan, the 15-year-old American, had risen magnificently to the formidable challenge thrown down by Lu Chen, 19, to win by six judges to three.

Nobody here could remember if there had ever been a perfect mark of 6.0 in the women's championship, yet here there were four, two to each skater for presentation. Sixes have been commonplace in ice dance and occasionally among the men, but never, it seems, among the women.

That was the measure of the task facing Kwan, protected from the scene by a curtain as she waited to skate, fully able to hear Chen's glittering array of marks.

The Chinese Chinese had announced herself with two combinations, adding double toe loops to first a triple lutz and then a triple flip. From then on there was no hint of error as she wove her magic through a series of four more triple jumps interlaced with elegant spins and spirals.

Waiting for Chen's marks, the crowd bayed: "Six, six, six..." and the judges from France and Hungary duly obliged.

All previous experience told us that Chen had retained her title, but nobody had told Kwan. She opened with a setback, for her combination was the same as Chen's when she had planned a triple toe loop on the end of her lutz.

But she and her coach, wise old Frank Carroll, had prepared for that possibility and, defying fatigue, she made amends with a triple toe loop, her seventh, instead of a double axel at the very end of her programme.

What a way to round off four minutes of demanding skating and at the age of 15. Again the cry went up: "Six, six, six..." and again two judges responded, those from Bulgaria and Japan.

The women's final is often a disappointment, but not this time. This was a classic, with two Russians, Irina Slutskaya, European champion at 17, and Maria Butyrskaya, an old lady of 23, also skating almost to their full potential, to take the next two places.

Stephanie Main, the British champion, showed much better form than in the qualifying competition, with two successful triple jumps and an average mark of nearly 4.7, compared with a little over 4.1 last Monday. All the same, it only served to keep her in 22nd place.

Peak practice helps Brown hit new high

From David Powell, athletics correspondent in Stellenbosch

JON BROWN produced the best performance by a British man at the world cross country championships for seven years here on Saturday yet still finished behind the last scoring Kenyan. Once again, Africa dominated this event as surely as Table Mountain dominates nearby Cape Town.

African nations won all four individual and team races, 11 of the 12 individual medals and ten of the 12 sets of team medals. Kenya won the men's team title for an eleventh successive year and the women's for the fifth time in six years. Britain, meanwhile, has become accustomed to measuring success by how it fares in a European context and, in that respect, the senior men showed up well.

After three years in decline, they finished fifth, second only to Spain in the European subplot. Brown, twelth, was the first European, the highest by a Briton since Tim Hutchings was second in 1989.

Thus Brown justified his selection, despite missing the trial, while the controversial inclusion of Rob Denmark, ahead of athletes who had beaten him in the selection race, was justified. He was the third British scorer, ahead of Keith Cullen, the trial-winner.

The leading British runners agree that, to become medal contenders, the trial needs to be dropped and a squad assembled for warm-weather altitude training six weeks before the championships. "It is haphazard," Brown said. "At the moment it is just hobby preparation."

Brown spent seven weeks at altitude in Boulder, Colorado, which, though not ideal because the weather was cold, was better preparation than that enjoyed by his team colleagues. He chose Boulder because he was offered cheap accommodation and medical support. "A team camp in Johannesburg would have been perfect," he said.

He accused the British Athletic Federation (BAF) of ineptitude. "The coaching staff here have been fantastic in getting people motivated but it is the preparation that is most important and we are not getting any help," he said.

In his first year as manager, David Clarke has made a big impression, winning the support of the athletes. Brown, Denmark and John Nuttall, the second Briton here, agree that the squad should be selected by Clarke several weeks before the championships, rather than by selectors three weeks in advance.

With the BAF's finances in a parlous state, Clarke holds out no hope for the funding of a pre-championships camp. In that case, he said, the trial must stay. "You have got to offer hope to Joe Average." Clarke said. But, as Brown said: "You are not going to get some dark horse from Britain in the top 30." The point was proved bySteve Harris, the unexpected team member, who finished 151st.

Paul Tergat, from Kenya, retained the men's title, though he was nearly brought down when Haile Gebresilasie, from Ethiopia, tripped on a log. Tergat's eleventh kilometre, in 2min 29sec — sub 25-minute pace at 10,000 metres — ended Gebresilasie's chances.

The familiar Kenya team tactics worked well for Tergat, who ran behind the leading group for most of the way. Gebresilasie, the 5,000 and 10,000 metres world record-holder but never higher than third in four world cross country championships, said that he was finished with trying. He said that last year but insisted he meant it this time. Ethiopia provided the women's champion, Gete Wami succeeding Derartu Tulu, her compatriot, whose chance was lost when she stopped to retrieve a lost shoe. Annemari Sandell, from Finland, second in the junior women's race, and Romania, third in the senior women's team contest, were Europe's only medal-winners.

Tergat: retained title

Romania's success was an embarrassment for the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). Two of their team were Iulia Negura and Elena Fidatov, who were found last week to have taken a drug-masking agent that is not on the banned list. Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, described what Negura and Fidatov had taken as "a terrible substance".

Pickering appeals for support

By Craig Lord

KAREN PICKERING, Britain's most successful woman swimmer of the past three years, last night said she would not attend the Olympic training camp, did not wish to attend the compulsory holding camp and held out little hope of glory in Atlanta if Britain failed to select her coach to travel with her this summer.

After winning the 200 metres freestyle at the Olympic trials in Sheffield, which ended last night with 27 swimmers on the national team for Atlanta, Pickering said of her coach, Dave Champion: "If he's not there, there's no point in me going to the camp. What more do I have to do to make sure everything is right on the big day?"

Champion was not with Pickering, 24, in Barcelona, and the pair said they would never again wish to attend a pre-championship training camp after a BBC camera fell into the water on top of Pickering, slightly injuring her back before she competed.

The selectors have three places for coaches to fill. Two remain, but Pickering believes she and Champion will lose out. "It seems they prefer the coaches of male swimmers," she said after being pressed to a time of 2min 01.39sec, her fourth fastest, by Sarah Hardcastle yesterday.

The display of the weekend came from James Hickman in the 200 metres butterfly. Hickman, 19, from Stockport, became the first Briton to swim under two minutes in the heats on Saturday, breaking the record of Philip Hubble, whose 2min 00.21sec was set when he finished behind Michael Gross at the 1981 European championships.

Hubble sent a fax to congratulate Hickman, which spurred the teenager to lower his new standard by a further 1.22sec in the final. His 1min 58.50sec would have won him the bronze medal at the Barcelona Games.

Caroline Foot, 31 last week, yesterday joined Margaret Hohmann, née Kelly, as the only other member of that exclusive club of thirty-somethings who have swum for Britain at the Olympic Games since the Second World War. Her time of 1min 01.89sec in the 100 metres butterfly was a personal best. Others to book places on the team last night were Adam Ruckwood, an outside medal hope in the 200 metres backstroke, and Helen Slatter, in the 100 metres backstroke.

Results, page 36

Panthers forced to rely on benefactor

NOT being in the play-offs, which is now the likely fate of the Doncaster Panthers basketball team after their defeat by Thames Valley Tigers on Saturday, will pale into insignificance if the club goes out of existence at the end of the season (Nicholas Harling writes). Their destiny lies, apparently, with a mystery benefactor who is deciding whether to allow the Panthers or Crystal Palace to profit from his wealth.

Should the Budweiser League decide belatedly to promote Palace, the first division champions-elect, he would almost certainly plump for the London club. However, should Palace be denied for the fourth successive season, the Panthers may get his vote, which would be doubly welcome since the country's biggest joinery firm, John Carr, will shortly end its second term of sponsorship after 3½ years.

In the process of their 99-92 victory, the Tigers improved their own hopes of reaching the play-offs.

Worthing Bears, safe in seventh place, participated in a high-scoring 131-107 win over Hemel Hempstead Royals. The last quarter alone produced 77 points, 47 of them to the Bears.

Steve Nelson's 34 points were three more than his player-coach, Colin Irish, although neither Bear could surpass Ray Schultz, scorer of 38 points for the Royals.

Derby Storm, winners by 102-82 over Chester Jets, were indebted to LaKeith Humphrey for his 23 points, including one remarkable spell when he accumulated 13 in a row.

IAAF to extend prize-money

From David Powell in Cape Town

PRIZE-MONEY is to be paid at the world championships for the first time, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced here yesterday. It will include probably $100,000 (about £65,000) for a world record and an estimated $10 million overall is likely to be paid out at the next outdoor world championships in Athens in 1997.

The world indoor championships and the World Cup are also to become prize-money events, although the sport's other main spectacle, the world cross country championships, remain for honour and sponsorship benefits only. The first IAAF championships to be held with prize-money will be the world indoor championships in Paris next March.

There has been growing unrest among athletes over the IAAF's intransigence towards paying prize-money. Michael Johnson, Carl Lewis and Noureddine Morceli are among those who have been critical and the awarding of cars to winners at the past two outdoor world championships went only a short way to appeasing the critics. "We have decided to face life in a realistic manner," Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, said.

Now athletes are set to enjoy a new wealth. Grand prix prize-money has already been increased hugely this year to $3.4 million. While reluctant to indicate how much a world champion's purse might be worth, Nebiolo said it would be "surely not less" than in the grand prix. Probably in the region of $100,000.

The IAAF will be rewarding not only its champions but also the support cast in each event, down to eighth place, providing it secures the sponsorship, of which — in view of the announcement yesterday — Nebiolo seems confident.

However, the 1996 grand prix has started without a backer so far, and an agreement over a new television deal is long overdue. If Nebiolo has misjudged it, the IAAF will need to dig into its reserves.

The IAAF has also changed the Olympic timetable to accommodate Johnson's attempt at a 200-400 metres double and relented on its controversial decision to stage the men's marathon in early evening when the risk of heat exhaustion in Atlanta is high. It will be run at 7am. The council of the IAAF will be busy today, when it considers the Diane Modahl case.

"The boys done great Brian!"

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Newcastle betray further signs of tension in defeat at Highbury

Keegan flirts with muddle management

David Miller finds flaws in the character and leadership of the erstwhile league leaders

Ginola, right, the Newcastle winger, attempts to fend off the challenge of Dixon, the Arsenal defender. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Where has Kevin Keegan gone wrong? His team, which seemingly could not stop winning, now cannot halt the uncomfortable experience of defeat. Newcastle United have taken a mere four points from the last possible 15, with the title sliding away from them. Now comes the most testing month of Keegan's relatively short managerial career.

Newcastle, beaten 2-0 by Arsenal at Highbury on Saturday, are failing to find many of the characteristics that distinguished Keegan as a player. They are proving fragile away from home; their teamwork is inconsistent; and their heads are dropping under pressure.

That was never Keegan. His play was as resistant to erosion as flint, from the time of his first senior overseas tour with England, in 1974, when he was beaten up by Yugoslav immigration police. So tenacious was he on any field, anywhere, that Don Revie made him captain in succession to the injured Gerry Francis in 1976.

In the imponderable dressing-room equation that always exists between manager and team, one cannot at this stage determine who is failing whom. Has the introduction of Asprilla upset the balance of a winning side, as was widely forecast? Asprilla's mesmeric dribbling foundered against the three Arsenal centre backs, Keown, Linighan and Marshall, never mind the absence of Adams and Bould.

Or are Newcastle's many other good players wilting under expectation, proving to be not as good as was supposed now the climax of the season has arrived? With typical honesty in the aftermath, Keegan lamented that many of the team had under-performed, and that "you cannot carry five or six". That effectively amounts to the team not being able to carry itself, a disturbing thought.

Or, a third possibility, is the team not receiving the right messages from a manager who has limited experience in the cockpit at this level? Where Newcastle do not have a fulcrum such as Barnes or McManaman, of Liverpool, or Cantona, of Manchester United, the manager's vision is more than ever important. Keegan admitted that "we're not going to win the championship at home". He needs, somehow, to help to get it right away from home, yet with matches yet to come at Liverpool, Blackburn, Leeds and Nottingham Forest, the feeling is that this is not going to be Newcastle's year.

Bruce Rioch, analysing an Arsenal victory that rested on goals by Marshall and Wright in the first 20 minutes, shrewdly observed that Liverpool and Manchester United are playing without the tension that is detectable within Newcastle. It exists because Newcastle are unstable at the back, while Beardsley, Lee, Batty and Ginola do not look like a championship-winning midfield line.

Ginola plays too much for himself, Batty is no more than a stroppy errand boy, Lee lacks the poise of someone acclaimed to be of international class and Beardsley is clinging to the remnants of an eminent but fading career.

In front of all this, the talents of Asprilla and Ferdinand cannot be expected consistently to deliver the goods, close though Asprilla came to doing so in the three minutes immediately before half-time.

First, finding himself disbelievingly not offside when receiving the ball ten yards out, he momentarily hesitated, and his eventual, lifted shot was comfortably turned away by Seaman. Moments later, Asprilla left the pedestrian Platt for dead on the edge of the centre circle, raced to the penalty area, sidestepped Linighan and hit a cross-shot which again Seaman saved. In the next breath, Asprilla glanced a shot no more than a foot wide when put clear by Batty.

In those few moments, Newcastle's hopes came and went, and by the time Asprilla hit a post in the closing minutes, the Arsenal supporters had long been chanting tauntingly that Keegan had better get his cheque-book out again.

Rioch, the Arsenal manager, said afterwards that it is players, rather than systems, that win matches, but there was no doubting the effectiveness on this occasion with which Arsenal's rearguard stifled any menace while, at the other end, the industry of Bergkamp behind Wright — before he had to leave the field with an injury — and Hartson ground Batty into insignificance.

Arsenal were ahead within three minutes. The uncertain Barton conceded a corner under pressure from Wright. Merson's kick was deflected at the near post and Marshall met the ball with a header which gave Srnicek no chance.

Arsenal continued to control the play and, after 18 minutes, Winterburn went past Barton to roll the ball square into the path of Wright, who scored with a glancing shot.

ARSENAL (3-5-2): D Seaman — M Keown, A Linighan, S Marshall — L Dixon, P Merson, D Bergkamp, D Platt, N Winterburn (sub: G Helder, 90min) — I Wright (sub: R Parlour, 41), J Hartson

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P Srnicek — W Barton (sub: S Watson, 59), S Howey, P Albert, J Beresford — P Beardsley, R Lee, D Batty, D Ginola — F Asprilla, L Ferdinand.

Referee: P Durkin.

Wimbledon raised by spirit of premium bonding

Everton 2
Wimbledon 4

By Mark Hodkinson

TEAM spirit is like wisdom, health, love and youth — it cannot be bought. Coveted by all, achieved by few, it is the only real strand of romanticism remaining in the modern game. It is a paradox that while Wimbledon's style and etiquette are unapologetically raw, their camaraderie has a marvellously old-fashioned charm.

When a Wimbledon player mistimed a pass on Saturday, or failed to control the ball, there was always a pat on the back or a word of consolation from a colleague. Everton, in contrast, were far less congenial. Especially Kanchelskis, who grumbled and gesticulated every time the ball was not placed onto his instep.

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, was fervent in his praise. "The dressing-room is on fire. I have just put my arms around every one of my players," he said. "You don't know how big this result is to us. We are a small club without a lot of money and resources and to come to a massive club like this and get a result is fantastic."

He singled out the endeavour of Andy Clarke. Appropriately so. "I thought he gave their defenders a nightmare," Kinnear said. That was a rare understatement. Clarke, shoulders rolling, feet shuffling, had run selflessly across the front line, a spirit that Watson and Short were unable to exorcise.

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, chose unusual adjectives to describe the game. "There is a strange atmosphere out there," he said. "I cannot really explain it. We have just started conceding goals. It has become mysterious to me why this is happening."

The game's first two goals came from the same template. Jones floated a free kick to Gayle and he headed past Southall. Ten minutes later, Limpar plagiarised the move and Short supplied the finish.

If Kanchelskis and Limpar were reluctant to release the ball, preferring instead to shape their own personal glory, Wimbledon were politeness itself, often passing across the goal when a shot was necessary.

Full results and league tables ..... Page 30

Jones, guilty of some erratic passing, was substituted before half-time. He kissed his replacement, Castledine, on the cheek and punched him on the arm. Team spirit clearly moves in mysterious ways at Wimbledon.

Everton took the lead when Amokachi crossed for Kanchelskis to head home. Within minutes, Castledine drove the ball past Southall. Limpar appeared to restore the lead for Everton but his fierce shot went into the side-netting. There were, however, itchy fingers at the control panel of the electronic scoreboard and the Everton players had to endure the word "goal" being flashed repeatedly before their eyes as Sullivan dutifully took a goal kick.

With five minutes remaining, Clarke stole a goal, his header dallying between Southall's gloves and the crossbar before dropping into the net. Soon afterwards Clarke made the byline, crossed to the far post, and Goodman, another substitute, nodded home.

At the final whistle, Clarke, with a smile that flashed unadulterated elation, looked to the skies. Effort, enterprise and harmony had brought Wimbledon a deserved win, and probably secured their place in the FA Carling Premiership for another season.

EVERTON (4-2-4): N Southall — M Hottiger, C Short, D Watson, A Hinchcliffe — B Horne, J Ebbrell (sub: P Rideout, 45min) — A Kanchelskis, D Ferguson, G Stuart (sub: D Amokachi, 57), A Limpar.

WIMBLEDON (4-1-2-3): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — V Jones (sub: S Castledine, 28) — R Earle, O Leonhardsen — E Ekoku (sub: J Goodman, 60), A Clarke, M Gayle

Referee: R Dilkes

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Bolton use muscle to lift their status

Bolton Wanderers 2
Sheffield Wednesday 1

By Peter Ball

TEAMS under pressure revert to type. After an anaemic first half, Bolton Wanderers listened to their ancestral voices on Saturday, recalling the aggressive side of Nat Lofthouse rather than the more recent footballing teams of Ian Greaves and Bruce Rioch as they thrust Sheffield Wednesday aside to claim three important points.

"I admit there has been a change of thinking at the club," Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said. "In the summer we were looking at the ideal of how Bolton have played, but now it is a case of grabbing results and doing whatever we have to do to get them."

The win, their fourth in six games, takes them off the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership for the first time this year. Suddenly, an escape of epic proportions is a possibility, if a remote one.

It had all looked unlikely for 40 minutes as Wednesday controlled the game. But then, in the dying moments of the first half, Curcic wriggled to the byline and laid the ball back for Sellars to equalise Whittingham's goal.

That offered a hint of hope, and in the second half Bolton grasped the moment. With its passionate, partisan crowd in full-throated support on its surviving terraces, Burnden Park was suddenly a throwback to another age. If Sheffield Wednesday had been wearing their traditional blue and white on Saturday, it would have looked like a meeting of 40 years ago with the Bolton of Hartle and Banks, Hennin and Higgins muscling aside the deft touches of Quixall and Froggatt.

It was too much for this Wednesday, just as it had been for that other Wednesday side of sophisticated football but little spirit. "You'd better talk to Jeff Winter [the referee]," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, snapped when asked for his comments. Privately, Wednesday left complaining that they had been kicked out of it.

Degryse was kicked behind the knee as he lay on the ground and Wednesday thought they should have had a penalty, but no team with Sellars, Thompson and the waif-like Curcic is going to rely on kicking teams into submission.

Stubbs was strong and Coleman put himself about determinedly, but Curcic made the crucial contribution, a low snap shot sneaking past Woods for the winner.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): A Davison — G Bergsson, C Fairclough, S Coleman, J Phillips — J McGinlay, A Stubbs, S Sellars, A Thompson — S Curcic — F DeFreitas

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-1-1): C Woods — P Atherton, J Newsome, D Walker, L Briscoe — G Whittingham, J Sheridan (sub: G Hyde, 55min) M Pembridge, R Humphreys (sub: C Waddle, 62) — M Degryse — D Hirst (sub D Kovacevic, 44)

Referee: J Winter

Struggling City are made to pay for false economy

Oliver Holt on why an ill-judged departure could send Alan Ball's team into oblivion

Manchester City reaped the first dividend from their sale of Garry Flitcroft at Upton Park on Saturday: a humbling 4-2 defeat by West Ham United that left them one place closer to the FA Carling Premiership relegation zone.

Hundreds of City supporters jammed the club's switchboard late last week to protest at the £3.2 million sale of the home-grown midfield player to Blackburn Rovers. Alan Ball, the City manager, said they had cover. Well, Blackburn have got cover for Alan Shearer, too, but that does not mean they want to sell him. Add to that the fact that demotion to the Endsleigh Insurance League, a real possibility now, would wipe out their profit at a stroke and the deal has false economy written all over it.

Ball, of course, blamed the defeat on everything but the midfield. The defence was at fault — sloppy marking — for the first two goals, he said, and the attack squandered a succession of crosses that flashed across the face of the goal. If Basil Fawlty had been around, he would have been darting through the post-match press conference stage whispering: "Don't mention the transfer."

Without Flitcroft, City did not have the balance to outwit their hosts. Kinkladze was brilliant, as usual, flicking the ball over Dicks's head and easing past two challenges before being cut down to earn his team a penalty three minutes from the end. Miklosko saved Curle's well-struck kick.

In the second half, though, even the invention of the diminutive Georgian was swamped by West Ham's supremacy. Kinkladze apart, City's growing foreign legion of players looks like a rag-tag conscript army, a shoddy outfit manned by short-term reinforcements beating a steady retreat.

Rösler's main contribution was kicking a post in frustration so hard that he had to go off for treatment. The West Ham League of Nations, in contrast, is going from strength to strength and shows real signs of becoming a unit.

It was ironic that amid all the exotic names — the Dumitrescus, Bilics, Frontzecks, Danis and Mazzarellis — it should be Dowie, that epitome of British grit and directness, who should steal the glory.

He put West Ham in the lead midway through the first half when he headed high past Immel after Dicks's effort had been cleared off the line and, nine minutes after the interval, he beat his marker to Hughes's near-post corner and glanced it into the top corner of the City net.

Lomas, assisted by Brown, did his best to fill Flitcroft's tough-tackling shoes but the young Northern Ireland international was sent off for his second clumsy challenge 15 minutes from the end. Quinn gave City some hope with a scrambled goal a minute later but a powerful shot by Dicks and a clever finish by Dani finished them off, before Quinn produced a clever turn and unstoppable left-foot volley to reduce the arrears with the last kick of the match.

"It was a crazy, crazy game," Ball said. "It was daft really. Until they scored, we were comfy. I have not seen us get the ball across the face of the goal that much for a long, long time but we did not put it in. Then, some of our defenders failed to do their jobs, they went ahead and we were struggling."

Nobody mentioned Flitcroft, but somebody did suggest Kinkladze might be next on the transfer hit-list. Ball glared at him. "We've got him on a long contract," he said, and walked out.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, S Bilic, M Rieper, J Dicks — M Hughes, D Williamson, I Bishop, K Rowland — I Dumitrescu (sub: Dani, 70min), I Dowie

MANCHESTER CITY (3-4-1-2): E Immel — K Curle, K Symons, I Brightwell — N Summerbee (sub: G Mazzarelli, 72), S Lomas, M Brown, M Frontzeck (sub: S Hiley, 57) — G Kinkladze — N Clough, U Rosler (sub: N Quinn, 57)

Referee: K Cooper

Wilkins ensnared by poverty trap

Chelsea 1
Queens Park Rangers .. 1

By Alyson Rudd

IT IS perfectly straightforward. Queens Park Rangers need to find a seriously wealthy benefactor before the transfer deadline on Thursday. There is a high statistical probability that among their supporters there is a successful entrepreneur, lottery winner or heiress.

On Saturday, Ray Wilkins, the Rangers manager, read out a small ad: "The players we would need to bring into this club to get us out of the situation would cost us lots and lots of money. We don't have lots of money." How could any self-respecting supporter with lots of money pass Wilkins's empty hat and sign stating "bottom of the table — please help" without making a contribution?

One excuse could be that Wilkins would not spend the gift wisely. He sold Ferdinand and with the proceeds bought Zelic, Osborn, Hateley and Sommer. Many view this exchange akin to pawning their mother's engagement ring for two bottles of gin, ten scratch cards and a second-hand toothbrush.

At least Sommer performed reasonably well against Chelsea, in particular saving alertly with his feet from Spencer just after the Scotland international had improbably given Chelsea the lead with an unstoppable header. Barker swung at Dichio's lay-off to equalise from the edge of the area and, although Chelsea should have won, a combination of their visitors' tenacity and careless finishing by Furlong led to the draw.

Chelsea will not be too concerned. It used to be that no club was too big to be relegated but now size really matters and Chelsea are fast becoming a big club. Whatever else Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, has done, he did at least find Matthew Harding. Harding's gift and loans help Chelsea to pay Gullit's wages and enabled them to buy Petrescu and Hughes.

So attractive has their football become that Umbro is prepared to invest £20 million in sponsorship over the next seven years. Precisely how Chelsea will continue to be run and funded is still unclear but it seems certain that the west London club will emerge with FA Carling Premiership stature guaranteed.

If Hastings Town and Stamco, of the Unijet Sussex County League, can convince a lottery winner to part with his easily-earned cash, then surely so can Rangers. It is their only hope.

CHELSEA (5-2-2-1): K Hitchcock — D Petrescu, M Duberry, D Lee (sub: E Johnsen, 80min), S Clarke, T Phelan — C Burley, R Gullit — D Wise, J Spencer (sub: G Peacock, 83) — M Hughes (sub: P Furlong, 52)

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-3-3): J Sommer — D Bardsley, A McDonald, D Maddix (sub: K Ready, 46), R Brevett — S Yates (sub: M Brazier, 88), S Barker, A Impey — T Sinclair, K Gallen (sub: M Hateley, 77), D Dichio

Referee: M Reed.

Collymore chastened by Forest's chorus of disapproval

Collymore was booked before being substituted

Nottingham Forest 1
Liverpool 0

By Simon Barnes

IT WAS not so much a contest of footballing skills, more an examination of self-belief. Perhaps that is the case with all football matches, but if so, it was ten times truer of this one. It was true on a collective and on an individual basis.

Did Liverpool really believe that they were the equals of the legendary Liverpool sides of a decade back, the dynasty of teams that won everything as of right? Were they about to become, like their predecessors, the team that always started one-up, in the Potteresque sense of one-upmanship, and against whom all opponents started one-down?

And as for the individual, was Stanley Collymore, still the most expensive player in the history of English football, about to soar to new heights on his return to his former club, Nottingham Forest?

The answers, after an unusually vicious session at the Saturday Afternoon Theatre of Cruelty, were no and no. Forest won and Collymore was substituted.

Anthony Burgess's first wife used to enliven points of tension in married life by chanting at her husband the verdict of a critic: "Mr Burgess disappoints." The Forest crowd showed the same relish for wounding cruelty.

Not the odd gibe, the odd boo. The stadium rung to orchestrated chants: "Judas! Judas!" Or, after a pause for inspiration: "One greedy bastard! Only one greedy bastard . . ." Every one who has ever been six and in a playground will know how Collymore felt; and seeing that he felt it badly, the cries came ever louder.

Perhaps the crowd should have cried out against the state of modern football, by which big money and leading players flow inevitably to the tiny handful of big clubs. But far easier to excoriate an individual and Collymore was chastened, not defiant.

There is a shark-like menace about Collymore when he is at his best; a rare combination of strength and self-certainty. But seeking defiance, he found himself taunted into tentativeness. The game really turned around his short-range poke at goal in the first half. It was a predator's chance, requiring instant response and a soupçon of accuracy. Collymore made scant contact and Crossley made the save without anxiety.

Later in the second half Liverpool compiled a move of a sureness they had been groping for all afternoon. It culminated in a swift, shallow cross from Fowler. Collymore should have been steaming in on it. But he was hanging back, anticipating a quite different move. In such an atmosphere, and always "trying too hard", you begin to doubt even your own deepest instincts.

Thus the game was decided by a goal of perfect uncertainty. It needs no ghost from the grave to tell us that Pearce can kick like a mule. James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, was nonetheless unprepared. Pearce hit straight at him, but that is no guarantee of safety where Pearce is concerned. James made a hash of it, the ball bounced back off his chest, Cooper tucked it back and Stone finished with some exuberance.

One-down at half-time, Liverpool must have heard that the FA Carling Premiership leaders, Newcastle United, were still worse off against Arsenal. It was the moment to stake a serious claim for the championship. Surfing a tremendous run of 20 games without defeat, Liverpool faced a moment that decides the destinies of seasons, teams, managers, dynasties. And Liverpool had everything save self-certainty.

Collymore was booked for a shoving match after Stone had fouled him and then was substituted, to the howling glee of all Nottingham. Liverpool did all they could, but still managed to look like a bunch of talented individuals. And on the one occasion that individual brilliance might have done something, the crossbar intervened magnificently to block Fowler's 30-yard chip.

Liverpool seemed to have condemned themselves to that nebulous consolation prize of "a place in Europe". And everyone present on an unpleasant afternoon will remember the truth that was at the heart of it all. Mr Collymore disappoints.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — S Stone, S Gemmill (sub: D Phillips, 63min), C Bart-Williams, I Woan — J Lee, B Roy (sub: C Allen, 79)

LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): D James — N Ruddock, J Scales, M Wright — J McAteer, M Thomas, J Barnes, D Matteo (sub: J Redknapp, 70) — S McManaman — S Collymore (sub: I Rush, 70), R Fowler

Referee: P Danson.

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Tottenham fall to Gallic flair

Cantona proving irresistible as United stride on

Manchester United 1
Tottenham Hotspur 0

By Michael Henderson

DAY by day, piece by piece, the picture is becoming clearer. When the championship jigsaw is complete, it will surely reveal a central image. Eric Cantona, of course, for the brilliant Frenchman seems determined to bring the trophy back to Old Trafford on his own. His goal separated United from a dapper Tottenham side yesterday, putting them three points ahead of Newcastle. Theirs is the position of strength with six weeks to go.

Where would United be without Cantona? At least four points behind Newcastle, for sure. Cantona's goals have won three of United's past four matches, against Newcastle, Arsenal and Tottenham, and claimed a point from the other, at Queens Park Rangers. He has scored in each of the last five games and yesterday's 51st-minute effort was his fifteenth of the season. United are now unbeaten in 15 games, since Tottenham beat them 4-1 on New Year's Day.

Contrast Cantona's form with that of the hapless Andy Cole, who has now scored only twice in the past 12 games and who was substituted yesterday 17 minutes from time after contributing nothing of value. Indeed, Tottenham were the better side for long stretches of the game and United ended it with Sharpe and Keane operating in defence and with McClair plugging the midfield gaps. Cantona was left alone up front, but United held on grimly.

Cantona's goal was outstanding. He picked up the ball ten yards into the Spurs half, burst past two challengers and then drifted towards the inside-left channel before delivering a left-footed shot from 20 yards that crept in at the far post. The relief was palpable throughout the packed stadium for United had been outplayed in the first half by a Tottenham side that came to Old Trafford intent on an expansive game.

Tottenham were stung by that goal and Sheringham was booked for pointing out, rather too forcefully for Mr Ashby's liking, that Nethercott, the substitute, was waiting on the touchline to replace Mabbutt. Tottenham's players also felt that, 30 seconds before Cantona had scored, they should have been awarded a corner at the other end.

CLAIRE MACKINTOSH

Schmeichel, often under pressure in the United goal, rises above Sheringham to repulse a Tottenham attack

Cantona manages to keep both his balance and the ball despite the weight of a challenge from Austin

Tottenham should have gone ahead after 20 minutes, and it would have been a deserved lead. When Fox played in a ball from the right, Bruce failed to anticipate Armstrong's movement behind him and the ball fell nicely for the striker. He ought to have scored, but instead poked the ball at Schmeichel, who stood tall and proved defiant. It was a costly miss.

United should also have scored four minutes later. This time Giggs was the provider, jinking in from the right touchline before releasing a pass with his favoured left foot for Cole, who had delayed his run from outside the box. A proper goalscorer should never pass up an opportunity like that but Cole, in his present form, is no goalscorer and he prodded his shot straight at Walker, who sat on the ball like a mother hen.

Giggs might have scored before half-time when he ran on to Sharpe's pass and lifted the ball wide of the advancing Walker, but high of the goal. Giggs had switched flanks by then as Alex Ferguson redeployed his resources. Philip Neville, who began the match at left back, was moved to the right side of midfield, enabling Sharpe to drop back in his stead. Tottenham's crisp football had clearly rattled United and Ferguson stuck with his altered formation after the break when United's football was more relaxed, bolstered as they were by Cantona's splendid goal.

As usual the Frenchman was at the heart of their cleverest moves. Quite apart from being an exceptional finisher and a true virtuoso (a much over-used word) he is also every inch the team man, always available and always ready to play the sensible pass when the spectacular one is unnecessary.

Cole, on the other hand, remains a square peg in a round hole. It must be evident now, even to Ferguson, that he can no longer command a first-team place on merit. His only asset is goal-power, and now that those goals have dried up, he gives the team very little. The crowd sympathise with him as one tends to do with a wayward child, or someone who is slow on the uptake. They now cheer him at every opportunity, irrespective of whether he has done anything of merit. The overwhelming feeling is one of embarrassment that United have wasted so much money on a man unworthy of the red shirt.

Towards the end of the match, Giggs came to the fore, running directly at defenders and pressing the Tottenham defence. Two minutes from time, when Bruce sent Beckham down the right, Giggs met the cross with a first-time shot from eight yards, but the ball struck the bar.

A second goal would have flattered United, to be fair, and it took Schmeichel's fine leaping save to tip over Sheringham's header and preserve their lead.

MANCHESTER UNITED (5-3-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, S Bruce, D May, P Neville (sub: D Beckham, 63min), L Sharpe — R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs — A Cole (sub: B McClair, 73), E Cantona.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, G Mabbutt (sub: S Nethercott, 51), S Campbell, C Wilson — R Fox, D Howells, J Dozzell, A Sinton — C Armstrong, E Sheringham.

Referee: G Ashby.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Manchester Utd	32	67	+29	WWDWW
2	Newcastle	30	64	+27	LDLWL
3	Liverpool	31	59	+33	WWDWL
4	Aston Villa	32	56	+16	LWWLD
5	Arsenal	32	54	+16	DWWLW
6	Tottenham	31	51	+9	WWLWL
7	Everton	32	48	+12	WWDDL
8	Blackburn	31	48	+11	LLDWW
9	Nottm Forest	30	47	0	LLWDW
10	Chelsea	32	45	+2	WDDLD
11	West Ham	32	45	-5	LDWLW
12	Leeds	29	39	-7	LLWLD
13	Middlesbrough	32	36	-13	DLLDD
14	Sheffield Wed	32	[illegible]	-8	LLWWL
15	Wimbledon	31	30	-17	DDDLW
16	Manchester City	32	30	-23	DLDWL
17	Coventry	30	27	-18	WDDDL
18	Southampton	[illegible]	25	-15	DLLLL
19	Bolton	32	25	-27	LWWLW
20	QPR	32	24	-22	DLLDD

Weekly change Up Stayed the same Down

Bowyer shows new maturity

Charlton Athletic 2
Stoke City 1

By Keith Pike

LEE BOWYER trains with the England squad today, his future prosperity seemingly assured and his past indiscretions forgiven. It says much about his temperament that he has come so far, so fast when a year ago his career was in jeopardy.

It surely says more about the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, though, that Bowyer, 19, and regarded by some good judges as an outstanding prospect, was forced on Saturday to scurry and scuffle along with the rest. Indeed, this match was a microcosm of the season outside the Premiership: long on endeavour and commitment, short on inventiveness and basic skills. The standard of passing, in particular, was shocking, and this in a contest between, supposedly, two of the better teams.

None of which seemed to have done Bowyer any harm. A career put on temporary hold by an experiment with cannabis and a failed random drugs test last March has blossomed again, with The Valley attracting more scouts than a jamboree and just about every leading club linked with the spindly teenager. This was not the match in which to assess him, perhaps, but he obviously has the "good engine" demanded of the modern midfield player and an eye for goal. A new maturity, too, it seems.

"Lee will not go there [with England] thinking he has made it," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "He will go and watch every single thing that goes on, what the players do, how they eat, the way they train and conduct themselves. Others might just be glad to be there. Lee will look at it differently. He will learn and he will not be overawed."

Full results and league tables ....Page 30

Bowyer, sensibly, has declined to discuss his earlier error of judgment, although in the match programme he described "getting involved with the drugs scene" as his most embarrassing moment. "I don't want to talk about what happened a year ago," he said after the match, "but it does go to show what a difference 12 months can make." He was surprised, delighted and nervous about his England adventure, and unperturbed about persistent transfer speculation. "I prefer to say what I want on the pitch," he said.

Bowyer talked loudest against Stoke City in second-half stoppage time, when a wonderfully conceived and executed pass to Newton on the right paved the way for David Whyte to hit the winner. It was tough on Stoke, who had dominated the first half and led through Sheron's header, only to be pegged back by a debatable penalty decision six minutes from the end. Clarkson was adjudged by a linesman to have handled and Mortimer converted the penalty.

Prudhoe, the Stoke goalkeeper, walked off beaten without having had to make a save, while Lou Macari, the Stoke manager, walked off wagging his finger at the officials. "It was an awful decision," he said. And an awful match.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): M Ammann — S Brown (sub: M Robson, 57min), R Rufus, C Whyte, P Sturgess — S Newton, L Bowyer, P Mortimer, J Robinson — C Leaburn, K Grant (sub: D Whyte, 57).
STOKE CITY (4-4-2): M Prudhoe — I Clarkson, L Sigurdsson, I Cranson, L Sandford — C Beeston, R Wallace, N Gleghorn, G Potter (sub: K Keen, 83) — M Sheron (sub: M Carruthers, 77), S Sturridge
Referee: A Butler.

Errant Bullock under fire

Huddersfield Town 1
Grimsby Town 3

By David Maddock

INCREASINGLY these days in the sanitised world of professional football, the participants make an art form of saying nothing. How refreshing, then, that Brian Horton, the Huddersfield Town manager, felt aggrieved enough to speak forcefully yesterday after his side had gone down to their third defeat in four games, when a draw would have seen them regain a play-off position in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division.

The focus of his ire was his own midfield player, Darren Bullock, who was sent off for two mindless, bookable offences.

Huddersfield had started nervously, Groves, the Grimsby Town captain, dictating play from midfield. But when Bullock was switched to counter this threat, a genuinely attractive and, at times, passionate contest developed.

Bullock then offered a passable imitation of a threshing machine and was first booked for an X-rated challenge on Croft and then dismissed a minute before the interval for a foul on Groves that defied certification.

"I have no time for Bullock today, he has let everyone down, let down his own team-mates with an act of stupidity," Horton said. "He wasn't competing for us, it was the action of a novice and it has cost us dearly. He claims he won the ball for his second foul, but it was a stupid lunge, and I would have fined him for the first booking because it was absolutely diabolical."

After the interval, Grimsby were able to develop the space offered by opponents a man short and canter to victory. They had taken the lead with the home side still getting organised. Norman, given an opportunity in goal in place of Francis, offered a hostage to fortune by spilling a drive from Childs that was going wide anyway. Livingstone, not one to decline such gifts, tapped home after seven minutes.

After their little midfield reshuffle, Huddersfield began to show the form which got them into play-off territory in the first place. Thornley, on loan from Manchester United, and Ward, making his debut after a free transfer from Birmingham City, orchestrated some slick passing movements.

Thornley ended one such passage with a theatrical dive after a tame challenge from McDermott and Jepson converted the penalty in the 41st minute. With both sides passing fluently and a bit of argy-bargy to brighten things up as well, the second half offered promise. Bullock's second midemeanour changed all that.

Grimsby waited for Ward to fade before marching forward to seal the match within the space of two minutes. First, Childs played a neat one-two with Groves before sending a right-foot shot from 25 yards into the roof of the net. Groves then danced onto a pass from Southall to flick over the advancing Norman.

Grimsby moved up four places after their victory and the breathing space it offers in the relegation struggle should, you would think, make Brian Laws, their manager, content. Not a bit of it. "I should be saying I'm happy after that win, but the referee was very poor, very card-happy and could have changed the game," he said.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): A Norman — S Jenkins, L Sinnott, K Gray, T Cowan — D Bullock, M Ward (sub: J Dyson, 66min), L Makel, B Thornley — R Edwards, R Jepson (sub: S Collins, 81).
GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-2): P Crichton — J McDermott, G Rodgers, R Smith, G Croft — N Southall, P Groves, C Shakespeare, G Childs — J Forrester, S Livingstone.
Referee: M Brandwood

Stewart and Rovers subdued

Chesterfield 2
Bristol Rovers 1

By Pat Gibson

MARCUS STEWART'S 27th goal of the season came too late to save Bristol Rovers from a defeat which dealt a severe blow to their chances of qualifying for the Endsleigh Insurance League second division play-offs. Yet it may have been just in time to bring about his own elevation to a higher level in the next few days.

The transfer deadline is less than a week away and Rovers would be obliged to consider the right kind of offer for a player who will be out of contract at the end of the season anyway. They already have a written bid of £1 million from Birmingham City. West Ham United have offered less than that and Southampton are also believed to be interested.

"The next two or three days could be quite interesting," John Ward, the Rovers manager, said. "It is unlikely that we would get £2 million for a second division player, but I think we are entitled to expect more than £1 million for him."

It was difficult to judge whether Stewart is worth that much on a dank afternoon at Saltergate, which showed just how competitive the second division is. Rovers looked the better footballing side, but they were outfought by a Chesterfield team which got out of the third division through the play-offs last season, and is hell bent on another glory day at Wembley.

In the circumstances, it was hard for Stewart to shine. It was only after 71 minutes that he had his first shot at goal, which Mercer saved, and another nine minutes had elapsed before he scored from close range after a corner.

"It was one of his quieter games," Ward said. "He is a good player, but there is more than you have seen today. Knowing him as I do, I felt he was a little bit on his heels.

"The runs and the work were done mostly by Beadle, and Marcus would normally feed off them a little bit better than he did. It's still not a good idea to take off a player of that calibre, so you leave him on and he scores a goal for you."

Unfortunately for Rovers, it was not enough. John Duncan, the Chesterfield manager, admits that they are having to scrap for everything they can get against teams which are far superior to those they were up against last season. But they are good at it, and they deserved to win the game with two goals in five minutes early in the second half.

Both of them were created by Hazel, playing wide on the right. First he beat two defenders to reach the byline and cut the ball back for Howard to score at the far post. Then he found room to put over a long cross which was flicked on by Robinson for Lormor to head in.

CHESTERFIELD (4-4-2): B Mercer — S Dyche, M Williams, N Law, M Jules — D Hazel, T Curtis, P Holland, J Howard (sub: J Narbett, 84min) — P Robinson (sub: D Moss, 86), A Lormor.
BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): A Collett — J Channing, I Wright, B Clark, S Morgan — A Gurney (sub: J French, 86), M Browning, P Miller, W Sterling (sub: L Archer, 69) — P Beadle, M Stewart.
Referee: K Breen.

Ferdinand heads PFA poll

LES FERDINAND, the Newcastle United forward, was last night voted player of the year by fellow professionals. Ferdinand was presented with his PFA award at a special gala dinner in London.

He topped the poll ahead of last year's winner, Alan Shearer, of Blackburn Rovers. Third place went to another Newcastle player, their French international winger, David Ginola.

Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool forward, was voted young player of the year for the second successive occasion.

☐ Paul Ince was sent off for the first time since his move to Italy during Internazionale's 2-1 win at Udinese yesterday. The former Manchester United midfield player was dismissed on the stroke of half-time for an off-the-ball incident.

Gresley's voyage becalmed

Gresley Rovers 0
Macclesfield Town 2

By Walter Gammie

THE Moat Ground looked the perfect setting for a cup upset. There were 1,727 people jammed into its tight confines, 50 or so more perched on ladders, walls and shed roofs in the gardens alongside. The pitch dipped and rose in a muddy green swell.

Yet Macclesfield Town sailed past their Beazer Homes League opponents on Saturday and into the FA Umbro Trophy semi-finals. It was left to the UniBond League clubs, Hyde United, stunning 3-2 winners against Stevenage Borough, and Chorley, who beat Gateshead 3-1, to capsize Vauxhall Conference clubs.

Having shown they were ready for the physical challenge when Hulme followed Horseman, of Gresley, into the referee's book in an abrasive opening, Macclesfield were settled by a goal in the ninth minute. Coates played the ball square for Bradshaw, their left back, to curl the ball over Ford.

By the 41st minute, when Power raced in at the far post to put away a header after Sorvel's free kick from the left had brushed off the head of Evans, Macclesfield were in clear command.

Gresley threw on Allsop, a gangling forward, at half-time to reinforce their attack. His nuisance value was considerable but Macclesfield defended diligently, denying Gresley space. A clear chance did not fall their way until the closing minutes when a fierce volley by Guyett was well blocked by Price.

No sooner had Guyett hung his head in disbelief, then he was doing so again at the other end. His trip on Hemmings, who had driven Gresley to distraction down the left, was punished with a penalty. Coates struck the kick well but Ford dropped low to his left to finish the match on a high note.

Paul Futcher, the Gresley manager, said: "I have no qualms about the result. I'm pleased we didn't cave in. We've had a good cup run, made a bit of money and the players have had the experience of playing high-quality opposition. I hope they can learn from it."

The atmospheric Moat Ground, sadly, give or take further Derbyshire Senior Cup ventures, may have staged its last cup-tie. Gresley are hoping to complete work on a spacious new home at Bridge Street this summer.

GRESLEY ROVERS (4-4-2): S Ford — R Wardle, P Wardle, S Evans, B Horseman — G Fowkes (sub: K Allsop, 46min), R Denby (sub: S Guyett, 76), A Marsden, G Castledine — J O'Reilly, A Garner.
MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — C Edey, N Howarth, S Payne, M Bradshaw — S Wood, N Sorvel, K Hulme (sub: S Hutchinson, 81), A Hemmings — P Power, M Coates.
Referee: D Bryan.

☐ Clitheroe will meet Brigg Town in the FA Carlsberg Vase final at Wembley on May 12. A goal in extra time by Gary Butcher brought Clitheroe a 2-0 win, and a 2-1 victory on aggregate, over Mangotsfield United in the semi-final, second leg on Saturday. Andy Flounders scored the only goal over two legs to give Brigg victory at Flixton.

Burns sees Celtic's title hopes fade at Fir Park

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

The droop of a mouth is never as precise as the line on a graph. Watching the Celtic players hurry out of Fir Park on Saturday, after the 0-0 draw with Motherwell, it was impossible to judge precisely how far their spirits had dropped. Was this mere disappointment or complete despondency? The expressions alone could not tell you.

With a 3-2 win over Falkirk at Ibrox, in which Erik Bo Andersen, the Denmark striker, scored twice, Rangers have now stretched their lead in the Bell's Scottish League premier division to five points. Of their half-dozen remaining fixtures, four are away from home but Walter Smith's team is yet to be beaten on its travels around Scotland this season.

If the story of the championship is not quite over, it does appear to have reached that stage where the plot begins to wind down. Celtic's revival has made it an agreeable tale, but the club may have the troubling sense that irony is looming over it. Should Tommy Burns's team, the holders of the Tennents Scottish Cup, lose the semi-final to Rangers on April 7, Celtic's manifest improvement will still leave them with no trophies from this season.

On Saturday the pitch was fiery, Motherwell were inflamed and, even when the visiting team did at last assert themselves, they lacked ingenuity.

Rangers, with Gascoigne and Laudrup, have the inventiveness that makes the breakthrough easier to achieve, as an advantage of 14 over Celtic in goal difference demonstrates. Burns still needs to add more substance to the style. On Saturday he registered Jorge Cadete, the Portugal forward, in time to beat the eligibility deadline for the cup semi-final.

Nonetheless, international clearance for Cadete, who bought out his contract with Sporting Lisbon last week, has not yet been supplied by the Portuguese FA. It is expected to arrive shortly but his entitlement to play in the semi-final is questionable. The procedural matter will probably have to be settled by the Scottish Football Association's executive committee.

As a continued interest in Paolo di Canio, of AC Milan, demonstrates, however, Burns recognises that the development still required by Celtic must involve much more than Cadete's arrival.

Anyone who feels Scottish football lacks competitiveness has not examined the seething depths of the premier division. Dundee United, the winners of the Scottish Cup in 1994 who were relegated in 1995, know how powerful is the vortex that can grip a club when it slips too far down the division.

Motherwell, with four successive victories before the draw on Saturday, have almost escaped the pull of failure. Their revival coincides with the purchase from Celtic, for a nominal fee, of Willie Falconer. The height and weight he adds in attack have ensured that Motherwell, when they do move forward, are no longer robbed of possession and forced into instant retreat.

For Partick Thistle, too, a signing is a solution. In their astounding 5-2 win away to Heart of Midlothian on Saturday, two goals by Andy Lyons brought his total to four in three games since joining from Wigan Athletic for £30,000.

It has, by contrast, been the failure of Falkirk, whose manager, John Lambie, resigned last week, to interrupt the process of decline that makes it likely that they will now fill the single automatic relegation place.

The Scotland manager, Craig Brown, having seen Goram, McLaren, and McCall, of Rangers, Ferguson, of Everton, McKinlay, of Celtic, and Calderwood, of Tottenham Hotspur, withdraw through injury from the squad for the match against Australia at Hampden Park on Wednesday, has called up O'Neil, the Celtic defender.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL (2) 2 **NEWCASTLE** (0) 0
Marshall 3 — 38,271
Wright 17

Arsenal: D Seaman, M Keown, A Linighan, S Marshall, L Dixon, P Merson, D Bergkamp, D Platt, N Winterburn (sub: G Helder, 90min), I Wright (sub: R Parlour, 41), J Hartson.
Booked: Keown, Bergkamp.
Newcastle United: P Srnicek, W Barton (sub: S Watson, 59), S Howey, P Albert, J Beresford, P Beardsley, R Lee, D Batty, D Ginola, F Asprilla, L Ferdinand.
Booked: Albert, Barton, Beresford, Beardsley, Batty.
Referee: P Durkin.

BOLTON (1) 2 **SHEFFIELD WED** (1) 1
Sellars 44 — Whittingham 37
Curcic 52 — 18,368

Bolton Wanderers: A Davison, G Bergsson, C Fairclough, S Coleman, J Phillips, J McGinlay, A Stubbs, S Sellars, A Thompson, S Curcic, F DeFreitas.
Booked: Bergsson.
Sheffield Wednesday: C Woods, P Atherton, J Newsome, D Walker, L Briscoe, G Whittingham, J Sheridan (sub: G Hyde, 55min), M Pembridge, R Humphreys (sub: C Waddle, 62), M Degryse, D Hirst (sub: D Kovacevic, 44).
Booked: Walker.
Referee: J Winter.

CHELSEA (1) 1 **QPR** (1) 1
Spencer 8 — Barker 19
25,590

Chelsea: K Hitchcock, D Petrescu, M Duberry, D Lee (sub: E Johnsen, 80min), S Clarke, T Phelan, C Burley, R Gullit, D Wise, J Spencer (sub: G Peacock, 83), M Hughes (sub: P Furlong, 52).
Booked: Hughes, Furlong.
Queens Park Rangers: J Sommer, D Bardsley, A McDonald, D Maddix (sub: K Ready, 46), R Brevett, S Yates (sub: M Brazier, 88), S Barker, A Impey, T Sinclair, K Gallen (sub: M Hateley, 77), D Dichio.
Booked: Bardsley, Barker, Dichio.
Referee: M Reed.

EVERTON (1) 2 **WIMBLEDON** (1) 4
Short 21 — Gayle 12
Kanchelskis 61 — Castledine 65
31,382 — Clarke 86
Goodman 88

Everton: N Southall, M Hottiger, C Short, D Watson, A Hinchcliffe, B Horne, J Ebbrell (sub: P Rideout, 45min), A Kanchelskis, D Ferguson, G Stuart (sub: D Amokachi, 57), A Limpar.
Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble, V Jones (sub: S Castledine, 28), R Earle, O Leonhardsen, E Ekoku (sub: J Goodman, 60), A Clarke, M Gayle.
Referee: R Dilkes.

NOTTM FOREST (1) 1 **LIVERPOOL** (0) 0
Stone 42 — 29,058

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce, S Stone, S Gemmill (sub: D Phillips, 63min), C Bart-Williams, I Woan, J Lee, B Roy (sub: C Allen, 79).
Booked: Stone, Lee.
Liverpool: D James, N Ruddock, J Scales, M Wright, J McAteer, M Thomas, J Barnes, D Matteo (sub: J Redknapp, 70), S McManaman, S Collymore (sub: I Rush, 70), R Fowler.
Booked: Wright, Collymore.
Referee: P Danson.

WEST HAM (1) 4 **MAN CITY** (0) 2
Dowie 21, 54 — Quinn 75, 90
Dicks 83 — 24,017
Dani 84

West Ham United: L Miklosko, T Breacker, S Bilic, M Rieper, J Dicks, M Hughes, D Williamson, I Bishop, K Rowland, I Dumitrescu (sub: Dani, 70min), I Dowie.
Booked: Rieper, Williamson.
Manchester City: E Immel, K Curle, K Symons, I Brightwell, N Summerbee (sub: G Mazzarelli, 72), S Lomas, M Brown, M Frontzeck (sub: S Hiley, 57), G Kinkladze, N Clough, U Rösler (sub: N Quinn, 57).
Booked: Lomas.
Sent off: Lomas (74).
Referee: K Cooper.

Yesterday

MAN UTD (0) 1 **TOTTENHAM** (0) 0
Cantona 51 — 50,157

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, S Bruce, L Sharpe, E Cantona, R Giggs, D May, R Keane, A Cole (sub: B McClair, 73min), N Butt, G Neville, P Neville (sub: D Beckham, 64).
Booked: Keane, Butt.
Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, D Howells, G Mabbutt (sub: S Nethercott, 51), R Fox, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, J Dozzell, C Wilson, S Campbell, A Sinton.
Booked: Mabbutt.
Referee: G Ashby.

Coca-Cola Cup

Final

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 **LEEDS UNITED** (0) 0
Milosevic 21 — 77,056
Taylor 55
Yorke 89

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, G Charles, A Wright, G Southgate, P McGrath, U Ehiogu, I Taylor, M Draper, S Milosevic, D Yorke, A Townsend.
Booked: Southgate, McGrath.
Leeds United: J Lukic, G Kelly, L Radebe (sub: T Brolin, 66min), C Palmer, J Pemberton, D Wetherall, A Gray, M Ford (sub: B Deane, 45), A Yeboah, G McAllister, G Speed.
Booked: Wetherall, Ford.
Referee: R Hart.

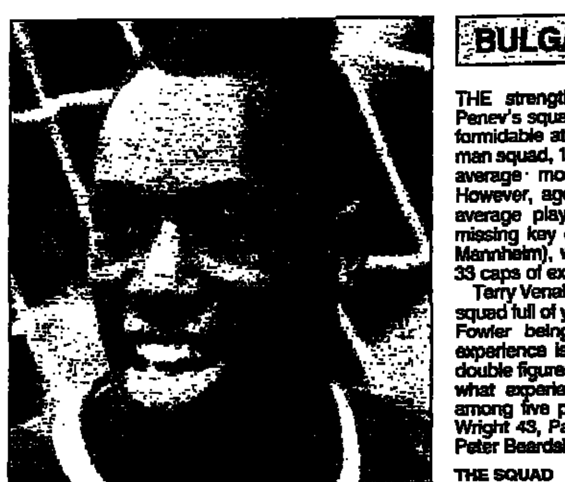
TODAY

SOUTHAMPTON V COVENTRY

Southampton's central defender Richard Hall's fitness is in doubt and full-back Jason Dodd is ready to deputise in a game manager Dave Merrington believes Southampton must win in their bid to avoid relegation. Benali and Maddision return from injury with Neil Heaney also back in contention.

Heaney has not played since early January, but could be the wide man Southampton need to inspire the passing skills of Matthew Le Tissier.

Coventry manager Ron Atkinson has skipper Kevin Richardson back from suspension and will drop Zimbabwe international Peter Ndlovu to accommodate the midfielder's return.



Wright: scored against Newcastle

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
Shearer (Blackburn)	28	5	1	34
Fowler (Liverpool)	25	6	0	31
Ferdinand (Newcastle)	22	4	0	26
Sheringham (Tottenham)	15	8	0	23
Yorke (Aston Villa)	15	8	0	23
Wright (Arsenal)	12	8	0	20
Yeboah (Leeds)	12	4	3	19
Armstrong (Tottenham)	11	7	0	18

BULGARIAN CHALLENGE

THE strength of the Bulgarian coach, Dimitar Penev's squad, makes England's task all the more formidable at Wembley on Wednesday. Of the 18-man squad, 15 play their football overseas and they average more than 37 caps between them. However, age is not on the Bulgarians' side, the average player age is almost 29 and they are missing key defender Tsanko Tsvetanov (Waldorf Mannheim), who would have contributed a further 33 caps of experience.

Terry Venables, by contrast, has picked a 26-man squad full of youth: 11 players are under 25, Robbie Fowler being the youngest, not yet 21. Their experience is also lacking with just 10 players in double figures for international appearances made; what experience the home team has is spread among five players (Stuart Pearce 62 caps, Mark Wright 43, Paul Gascoigne 35, David Platt 55 and Peter Beardsley 58 — total 253 matches in total).

THE SQUAD	Caps	Age
Borislav Mikhailov (Reading)	90	26
Dimitar Popov (CSKA Sofia)	12	33
Emil Kremenliev (Olympiakos)	23	26
Trifon Ivanov (Rapid Vienna)	57	30
Petar Hubchev (Hamburg)	29	32
Gosho Guinchev (Denizlispor)	2	26
Ilian Kiryakov (Famagusta)	51	28
Radostin Kishishev (Bourgas)	0	-
Zlatko Yankov (KFC Uerdingen)	47	29
Daniel Borimirov (1860 Munich)	19	26
Ivailo Yordanov (Sporting Lisbon)	20	27
Hristo Stoichkov (Parma)	59	30
Yordan Lechkov (Hamburg)	31	28
Krasimir Balakov (Stuttgart)	50	29
Lyuboslav Penev (Atletico Madrid)	48	29
Emil Kostadinov (Bayern Munich)	48	28
Bontcho Guentchev (Luton)	8	31
Nasko Sirakov (Slavia Sofia)	77	33
Average caps/age	37	29

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	32	12	4	0	29	9	8	3	5	30	21	67	+29
2 Newcastle	30	14	0	1	33	7	6	4	5	22	21	64	+27
3 Liverpool	31	11	4	1	39	10	6	4	5	21	17	59	+33
4 A Villa	32	10	4	2	28	13	6	4	6	18	17	56	+16
5 Arsenal	32	8	5	2	26	14	7	4	6	18	14	54	+16
6 Tottenham	31	8	3	5	21	16	6	6	3	19	15	51	+9
7 Everton	32	8	4	4	30	18	5	5	6	20	20	48	+12
8 Blackburn	31	12	1	2	38	12	2	5	9	9	24	48	+11
9 Nottm For	30	9	4	1	22	10	3	7	6	18	30	47	0
10 Chelsea	32	6	7	3	23	16	5	5	6	14	19	45	+2
11 West Ham	32	8	3	5	22	19	5	3	8	17	25	45	-5
12 Leeds	29	7	3	4	18	13	4	3	8	17	29	39	-7
13 Middlesbro	32	7	3	6	23	21	2	6	8	6	21	36	-13
14 Sheff Wed	32	6	4	6	27	26	3	4	9	16	25	35	-8
15 Wimbledon	31	3	6	7	23	31	4	3	8	23	32	30	-17
16 Man City	32	6	6	4	16	14	1	3	12	10	35	30	-23
17 Coventry	30	4	8	6	19	23	1	6	7	18	32	27	-18
18 Soton	29	4	6	5	16	17	1	4	9	12	26	25	-15
19 Bolton	32	4	3	9	13	28	3	1	12	22	34	25	-27
20 QPR	32	3	5	8	16	25	3	1	12	12	25	24	-22

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

BARNSLEY (1) 1 **SOUTHEND** (1) 1
Payton 27 — Rammell 37
6,754

CHARLTON (0) 2 **STOKE** (1) 1
Mortimer 85 (pen) — Sheron 42
Whyte 89 — 12,770

C PALACE (0) 0 **PORTSMOUTH** (0) 0
17,039

LEICESTER (1) 2 **MILLWALL** (1) 1
Carey 1 — Rae 37
Taylor 57 — 12,543

NORWICH (0) 1 **DERBY CO** (0) 0
Cuss 65 — 15,341

PORT VALE (1) 2 **IPSWICH** (1) 1
Bogie 41 (pen) — Marshall 38
McCarthy 86 — 7,277

SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 1 **LUTON** (0) 0
Hutchison 78 — 14,935

SUNDERLAND (0) 1 **OLDHAM** (0) 0
Scott 82 — 20,631

TRANMERE (1) 2 **READING** (1) 1
Aldridge 23 — Caskey 36
Hopkins 67 (og) — 6,249

WATFORD (0) 1 **WEST BROM** (0) 1
Ramage 89 — Taylor 78
10,334

WOLVES (1) 3 **BIRMINGHAM** (1) 2
Goodman 37 — Devlin 6, 84 (pen)
Thompson 88 (pen) — 26,256
Bull 89

Postponed: Huddersfield v Grimsby (pools panel verdict: home win)

Yesterday

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 1 **GRIMSBY** (1) 3
Jepson 41 (pen) — Livingstone 7
12,090 — Childs 70
Groves 73

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (1) 3 **CARLISLE** (1) 1
Linighan 39, 86 — Reeves 2
Quinn 71 (pen) — 8,144

BRENTFORD (0) 0 **SWANSEA** (0) 0
4,378

BRISTOL CITY (1) 3 **WREXHAM** (0) 1
Nugent 17, 85 — Connolly 66
Tinnion 62 — 6,141
Sent off: B Jones (Wrexham) 86

CHESTERFIELD (0) 2 **BRISTOL R** (0) 1
Howard 50 — Stewart 80
Lormor 54 — 4,748

CREWE (0) 1 **BRADFORD** (1) 2
Adebola 65 — Stallard 15
3,887 — Liburd 74

HULL (0) 1 **WALSALL** (0) 0
Abbott 79 — 3,060

OXFORD UTD (1) 5 **BURNLEY** (0) 0
Aldridge 37 — 6,529
Moody 77, 80, 90
Beauchamp 86

ROTHERHAM (0) 0 **WYCOMBE** (0) 0
2,775

SHREWSBURY (1) 1 **BOURNEMOUTH** (0) 2
Stevens 7 — Holland 52, 63
2,534

STOCKPORT (1) 3 **BRIGHTON** (1) 1
Bound 35 (pen) — Parris 44
Ware 58 — 5,765
Mutch 79

SWINDON (2) 2 **PETERBORO** (0) 0
Allison 11 — 8,780
Thorne 16

YORK (1) 1 **NOTTS CO** (1) 3
Bull 2 — Martindale 7, 63
3,126 — Jones 71

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (0) 1 **SCARBORO** (0) 0
Devine 55 — 2,054

CAMBRIDGE U (0) 0 **MANSFIELD** (2) 2
2,302 — Timons 21
Sale 36

CARDIFF (0) 0 **PRESTON** (0) 1
3,511 — Saville 70

COLCHESTER (1) 3 **TORQUAY** (0) 1
Fry 6 — Baker 87
McGleish 47 — 2,869
Betts 74 (pen)

EXETER (1) 1 **PLYMOUTH** (1) 1
Logan 19 (og) — Clayton 9
6,185

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 **L ORIENT** (0) 1
Gayle 54 — Arnott 87
9,071

HARTLEPOOL (1) 1 **BURY** (0) 2
Ingram 7 — Jackson 47
1,879 — Pugh 74

DARLINGTON (0) 1 **HEREFORD** (0) 0
Painter 54 — 1,708

LINCOLN (4) 4 **DONCASTER** (0) 0
Alcide 8, 20 — 3,240
Minett 10, 29
Sent off: C Cramb (Doncaster) 39

NORTHAMPTON (1) 1 **CHESTER** (0) 0
Burns 26 — 4,810

ROCHDALE (0) 0 **WIGAN** (1) 2
2,870 — Peake 24 (og)
Biggins 63 (pen)

SCUNTHORPE (1) 3 **FULHAM** (0) 1
Ijmill 32 — Blake 90 (pen)
Ford 51 — 1,919
D Aurd 69

GOALSCORERS

First division: 23 Aldridge (Tranmere); Edwards (Huddersfield, 21 for Crewe); Barnes (Birmingham, 20 for York). 20 Goodman (Wolverhampton). 19 Roberts (Leicester); Taylor (West Bromwich). 18 Freedman (Crystal Palace, 3 for Barnet). 18 Payton (Barnsley). 17 Marshall (Ipswich); Booth (Huddersfield). 16 Bull (Wolverhampton); Hunt (West Bromwich); White (Watford, 15 for Notts County).

Second division: 27 Stewart (Bristol Rovers). 24 Nogan (Burnley). 21 Martindale (Notts County, 18 for Peterborough). 20 Goater (Rotherham). 19 Lightbourne (Walsall). 18 Reeves (Carlisle). 17 Allison (Swindon); Connolly (Wrexham); Armstrong (Stockport); Moody (Oxford United). 16 Jones (Bournemouth); Finney (Swindon); Wilson (Walsall); Stevens (Shrewsbury).

Third division: 26 Dale (Cardiff). 25 Saville (Preston). 21 Whitehall (Rochdale). 20 White (Hereford). 17 Adcock (Colchester); McFarlane (Scunthorpe). 16 Butler (Gillingham, 11 for Cambridge United). 15 Littlejohn (Plymouth). 14 White (Northampton); Carter (Bury). 13 Devine (Barnet); West (Leyton Orient); Fortune-West (Gillingham); Stant (Bury); Conroy (Fulham).

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

ABERDEEN (0) 2 **HIBERNIAN** (1) 1
Dodds 71 — McAllister 35
Booth 79 — 11,300

HEARTS (1) 2 **PARTICK** (2) 5
Johnston 35 — Lyons 17, 73
Eskilsson 84 — Turner 45
9,610 — McDonald 71
Cameron 81

KILMARNOCK (0) 2 **RAITH** (0) 0
McKee 67 — 6,143
Wright 75

MOTHERWELL (0) 0 **CELTIC** (0) 0
12,394

RANGERS (2) 3 **FALKIRK** (0) 2
Gascoigne 8 — Johnston 55
Andersen 27, 79 — James 83
46,014

FIRST DIVISION

DUMBARTON (0) 0 **ST JOHNSTN** (2) 3
903 — Jenkinson 8
O'Boyle 20
Grant 70

DUNDEE UTD (3) 6 **CLYDEBANK** (0) 0
Brewster 14, 38, 78 — 5,973
McSwegan 42, 53
Coyle 86

DUNFERMLINE (2) 2 **ST MIRREN** (0) 2
Robertson 12 — Lavety 73, 80
Millar 37 (pen) — 4,936

G MORTON (1) 3 **AIRDRIE** (0) 0
Lilley 24 — 2,889
McCahill 51
Rajamaki 83

HAMILTON (0) 0 **DUNDEE** (1) 1
828 — Tosh 3

SECOND DIVISION

AYR (1) 2 **STIRLING** (0) 2
English 38 — McCormick 52
Sharples 50 — Tait 53
1,732

CLYDE (1) 1 **MONTROSE** (0) 3
Angus 9 — McGlashan 46
859 — Taylor 66, 70

EAST FIFE (2) 2 **STRANRAER** (0) 1
Dwarika 4, 44 — Duncan 65
812
Sent off: T Walker (Stranraer) 39

QUEEN OF SOUTH (1) 4 **FORFAR** (0) 1
Bryce 16, 61, 90 — Ingles 70
McLaren 68 — 1,279

STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 0 **BERWICK** (2) 3
300 — Walton 5, 43
Forrester 46

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION (0) 0 **ROSS CO** (2) 3
364 — Grant 11, 37, 88

ALLOA (1) 1 **LIVINGSTON** (0) 1
Morrison 40 — Bailey 57
541

BRECHIN (0) 2 **COWDNBTH** (0) 0
Ross 47 — 368
McNeill 62

CALEY THIS (0) 1 **ARBROATH** (0) 1
Hercher 75 — Roberts 54
1,105

EAST STIRLING (0) 1 **QUEEN'S PARK** (1) 2
Dwyer 82 — Maxwell 19, 90
324

CONFERENCE

KETTERING (1) 2 **KIDDERMINSTER** (0) 0
Harmon 23 — 1,376
Mustafa 47

MORECAMBE (1) 2 **FARNBOROUGH** (2) 3
West 20 — Boothe 28
Ceraolo 78 — Underwood 45
726 — Gavin 58

RUNCORN (1) 2 **HEDNESFORD** (1) 2
Taylor 42 — Lambert 32
Eyre 90 (pen) — O'Connor 64
507

SLOUGH (0) 2 **STALYBRIDGE** (0) 1
West 46 — Jones 78
Blackman 85 — 748

TELFORD (2) 2 **SOUTHPORT** (0) 1
Gray 1, 8 — McDonald 88 (pen)
758
Sent off: Clark (Southport) 84

WELLING (0) 0 **DAG AND RED** (0) 0
623

WOKING (1) 1 **DOVER** (0) 0
Fielder 17 — 2,438

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Stevenage	31	11	4	2	43	17	10	3	1	40	17	70
2 Hednesford	34	10	2	5	31	19	10	3	4	30	17	65
3 Woking	32	12	4	0	35	10	7	2	7	31	31	63
4 Macclesfield	31	12	2	3	30	13	7	3	4	24	21	62
5 Kidderminster	35	12	2	3	43	20	5	5	8	26	32	58
6 Farnborough	35	7	4	6	22	16	7	6	5	30	30	52
7 Gateshead	32	7	5	3	22	16	7	4	6	19	17	51
8 Southport	32	6	5	4	30	19	8	3	6	30	27	50
9 Bromsgrove	34	8	4	5	24	15	4	8	7	25	34	48
10 Kettering	33	9	5	2	33	16	3	4	10	24	41	45
11 Slough	34	[illegible]	4	10	34	42	5	0	7	25	23	43
12 Northwich	30	7	3	6	26	27	4	6	4	22	22	42
13 Morecambe	33	10	2	7	47	32	2	3	9	15	30	41
14 Altrincham	33	6	6	5	27	25	4	5	7	15	27	41
15 Halifax	35	8	3	6	29	21	3	5	10	15	36	41
16 Telford	32	6	5	4	19	16	5	2	10	17	29	40
17 Stalybridge	35	6	3	8	23	31	5	3	8	18	22	39
18 Welling	34	5	7	6	18	20	3	4	9	17	26	35
19 Bath	31	7	1	6	18	22	3	3	11	13	29	34
20 Dover	34	7	0	9	23	28	2	5	11	21	34	32
21 Runcorn	34	4	5	8	19	32	3	2	12	18	38	28
22 Dag & Red	34	4	7	6	25	28	1	4	12	9	35	26

GOALSCORERS

Premier division: 24 Van Hooijdonk (Celtic). 17 Dune (Rangers). 15 McCoist (Rangers); Wright (Kilmarnock), Gascoigne (Rangers).

First division: 19 O'Boyle (St Johnstone). 18 Brewster (Dundee United). 17 Hamilton (Dundee).

Second division: 31 McCormick (Stirling). 19 Annand (Clyde); McGlashan (Montrose).

Third division: 22 Stewart (Caley Thistle). 19 Young (Livingston).

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Sunderland	37	11	5	2	26	8	8	7	4	23	18	69	(49)
2 Derby Co	38	11	7	1	36	17	6	7	6	20	25	65	(56)
3 C Palace	38	8	8	3	30	18	8	6	5	24	23	62	(54)
4 Charlton	36	8	7	3	26	20	7	7	4	25	20	59	(51)
5 Stoke	36	9	6	3	25	12	5	6	7	22	26	54	(47)
6 Ipswich	36	10	4	4	39	26	4	7	7	27	28	53	(66)
7 Huddersfld	37	11	4	4	33	20	3	7	8	15	26	53	(48)
8 Leicester	37	6	7	5	24	24	7	6	6	30	30	52	(54)
9 Barnsley	37	9	7	2	30	22	4	6	9	21	32	52	(51)
10 Southend	38	9	6	4	24	19	4	6	9	21	30	51	(45)
11 Norwich	38	6	8	5	21	19	6	4	9	28	26	48	(49)
12 Birmingham	37	8	7	4	27	20	4	5	9	22	30	48	(49)
13 Wolves	37	7	7	5	29	24	5	5	8	20	26	48	(49)
14 Tranmere	36	7	6	5	31	23	5	5	8	18	21	47	(49)
15 Millwall	38	6	6	7	18	20	6	5	8	18	29	47	(36)
16 Portsmth	37	8	5	5	32	25	3	7	9	23	32	45	(55)
17 Grimsby	36	6	9	4	21	20	5	3	9	21	31	45	(42)
18 Port Vale	34	7	4	6	22	22	4	8	5	19	22	45	(41)
19 West Brom	37	8	5	6	27	24	3	4	11	19	35	42	(46)
20 Sheff Utd	38	7	5	7	23	23	3	7	9	19	28	42	(42)
21 Reading	36	6	6	6	23	25	2	10	6	18	24	40	(41)
22 Oldham	36	7	6	5	29	19	2	6	10	16	24	39	(45)
23 Luton	36	6	5	7	24	25	3	5	10	7	23	37	(31)
24 Watford	36	4	7	6	21	20	2	8	9	19	32	33	(40)

SECOND DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Blackpool	37	13	4	2	37	15	8	6	4	23	17	73	(60)
2 Swindon	35	10	7	1	31	12	10	4	3	25	14	71	(56)
3 Crewe	37	11	3	4	34	17	8	4	7	33	30	64	(67)
4 Oxford Utd	37	14	2	2	40	13	4	7	8	15	20	63	(55)
5 Notts Co	35	10	5	3	28	16	7	6	4	20	13	62	(48)
6 Chesterfld	34	12	4	1	33	14	5	5	7	15	22	60	(48)
7 Stockport	38	5	8	6	21	18	10	3	6	29	23	56	(50)
8 Bradford	36	11	3	4	28	20	5	3	10	21	32	54	(49)
9 Wrexham	37	10	6	3	41	22	3	8	7	17	24	53	(58)
10 Bristol R	36	8	3	7	23	26	7	5	6	24	24	53	(47)
11 Bristol C	38	9	4	6	23	16	4	8	7	21	31	51	(44)
12 Wycombe	36	6	7	4	22	18	5	7	7	22	25	47	(44)
13 Peterboro	36	8	4	6	35	22	4	6	8	16	28	46	(51)
14 Walsall	35	7	7	3	26	15	5	3	10	16	18	46	(42)
15 Bournemth	37	9	4	6	26	23	4	3	11	15	34	46	(41)
16 Brentford	38	9	5	5	19	14	2	7	10	16	29	45	(35)
17 Shrewsbury	37	6	5	7	26	23	5	5	9	21	30	43	(47)
18 Burnley	35	7	7	4	29	22	4	3	10	16	31	43	(45)
19 Rotherham	36	9	6	4	25	17	1	5	11	14	33	41	(39)
20 Swansea	38	6	7	6	22	24	2	6	11	13	38	37	(35)
21 York	35	5	6	6	19	21	3	6	9	23	35	36	(42)
22 Carlisle	36	6	6	5	23	17	1	7	11	20	41	34	(43)
23 Brighton	37	4	6	9	21	27	4	3	11	16	28	33	(37)
24 Hull	36	3	7	8	17	27	1	6	11	8	29	25	(25)

THIRD DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Gillingham	37	13	5	1	29	6	5	8	5	13	10	67	(42)
2 Preston	36	8	7	3	40	19	9	8	1	27	13	66	(67)
3 Plymouth	37	11	5	3	32	18	5	7	6	23	22	60	(55)
4 Wigan	38	13	2	4	32	18	4	7	8	23	30	60	(55)
5 Bury	36	8	6	5	26	19	8	5	4	26	21	59	(52)
6 Darlington	37	7	5	7	20	18	8	9	1	24	17	59	(44)
7 Colchester	37	10	5	3	31	19	4	10	5	18	22	57	(49)
8 Chester	36	8	7	2	34	17	6	6	7	23	24	55	(57)
9 Barnet	38	9	6	4	29	18	4	9	6	18	21	54	(47)
10 Northamptn	37	8	8	3	27	17	6	3	9	13	18	53	(40)
11 Doncaster	36	9	5	4	21	15	5	3	10	20	34	50	(41)
12 Exeter	37	8	7	4	21	17	3	9	6	20	23	49	(41)
13 Rochdale	37	6	7	6	29	27	6	4	8	20	20	47	(49)
14 Hereford	34	6	5	4	25	18	5	8	6	18	20	46	(43)
15 L Orient	37	11	2	6	26	15	1	6	11	11	32	44	(37)
16 Hartlepool	37	6	9	4	24	19	4	4	10	14	27	43	(38)
17 Lincoln	37	5	7	7	22	23	5	5	8	21	38	42	(43)
18 Mansfield	35	4	8	5	18	23	4	9	5	25	30	41	(43)
19 Scunthorpe	35	5	5	6	22	21	5	5	9	24	28	40	(46)
20 Fulham	37	6	8	4	30	25	2	7	10	16	28	39	(46)
21 Cardiff	38	7	4	8	19	17	3	5	11	16	36	39	(35)
22 Cambridge	36	5	7	6	26	25	5	1	12	22	37	38	(48)
23 Scarboro	38	4	11	4	18	20	3	5	11	15	27	37	(33)
24 Torquay	37	4	7	8	15	29	1	5	12	13	38	27	(28)

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	30	11	3	2	39	15	11	3	0	28	4	72	+48
2 Celtic	30	9	4	1	26	10	10	6	0	28	10	67	+34
3 Aberdeen	30	9	0	6	26	14	5	5	5	19	19	47	+12
4 Hearts	30	8	2	6	30	26	4	3	7	15	24	41	-5
5 Hibernian	30	6	3	5	21	22	4	4	8	17	27	37	-11
6 Raith	30	6	5	4	18	14	4	1	10	13	29	36	-12
7 Kilmarnock	30	6	4	5	22	17	3	2	10	12	30	33	-13
8 Motherwell	30	5	5	5	10	12	2	6	7	10	19	32	-11
9 Partick	30	3	4	8	9	21	5	1	9	16	26	29	-22
10 Falkirk	30	4	3	8	14	20	2	2	11	13	27	23	-20

FIRST DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Dunfermln	30	9	4	2	33	18	8	3	4	28	15	58	+28
2 Dundee Utd	30	10	3	3	41	16	6	6	2	19	15	57	+29
3 G Morton	30	9	2	4	29	14	8	2	5	22	22	55	+15
4 St Johnstn	30	8	5	2	27	13	7	2	6	24	20	52	+18
5 Dundee	30	4	5	5	19	18	10	3	3	28	18	50	+11
6 St Mirren	30	4	2	8	17	23	6	6	4	22	20	38	-4
7 Airdrie	30	3	6	6	18	21	5	4	6	16	23	34	-10
8 Clydebank	30	5	4	6	15	17	3	5	7	17	30	33	-15
9 Hamilton	30	4	3	8	20	22	3	3	9	11	25	27	-16
10 Dumbarton	30	2	1	13	10	34	1	1	12	9	41	11	-56

SECOND DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Stirling	30	10	4	1	31	11	9	5	1	36	15	66	+41
2 East Fife	30	7	5	3	26	16	10	3	2	20	9	59	+21
3 Berwick	30	7	4	3	23	13	8	1	7	29	25	50	+14
4 Stenhsmuir	30	8	3	4	25	15	4	3	8	21	27	42	+4
5 Queen of S	30	6	5	5	26	30	4	3	7	23	22	38	-3
6 Clyde	30	6	2	7	24	21	3	7	5	12	14	36	+1
7 Ayr	30	5	6	5	22	18	3	6	5	12	17	36	-1
8 Stranraer	30	5	8	2	16	11	1	7	7	14	26	33	-7
9 Forfar	30	6	2	7	14	28	2	4	9	14	27	30	-27
10 Montrose	30	3	2	9	17	31	2	2	12	13	42	19	-43

THIRD DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Livingston	30	6	4	5	15	12	11	3	1	27	9	58	+21
2 Brechin	30	10	3	3	25	7	6	5	3	11	8	56	+21
3 Ross Co	30	6	8	0	28	14	6	7	3	24	16	51	+22
4 Caley This	30	4	7	3	24	17	8	4	4	33	14	47	+26
5 Arbroath	30	4	5	5	18	19	7	5	4	19	17	43	+1
6 Queen's Pk	30	6	6	3	20	13	3	4	8	14	26	37	-5
7 Cowdenbth	30	7	4	5	23	19	3	1	10	17	31	35	-10
8 East Stirling	30	5	1	9	21	30	3	7	5	25	28	32	-12
9 Alloa	30	4	3	8	16	32	1	7	7	8	19	25	-27
10 Albion	30	4	3	9	19	28	2	1	11	13	41	22	-37

Pavon, right, of Montpellier, battles to hold off the persistent challenge of Scifo, of Monaco, during their French league match which finished as a 0-0 draw

OVERSEAS

ASIAN OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCHES: Semi-finals: Japan 2 Saudi Arabia 1; South Korea 2 Iraq 1

DUTCH LEAGUE: RKC Waalwijk 3 Willem II Tilburg 2; FC Utrecht 0 Breda 4; FC Twente Enschede 1 Sparta Rotterdam 0; FC Volendam 1 Nimejen 0; FC Groningen 1 PSV Eindhoven 0; Roda JC Kerkrade 3 Doetinchem 1; Heerenveen 5 Fortuna Sittard 1

FRENCH LEAGUE: Cannes 2 Gueugnon 0; Le Havre 1 Guingamp 0; Lens 3 St Etienne 0; Lyons 1 Nantes 1; Martigues 0 Nice 0; Metz 2 Lille 0; Montpellier 0 Monaco 0; Rennes 4 Bordeaux 3; Strasbourg 4 Bastia 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Paris SG	31	17	9	5	54	25	60
Auxerre	31	17	4	10	51	27	55
Lens	32	14	13	5	38	22	55
Metz	31	15	10	6	32	21	55
Monaco	31	14	10	7	46	30	52
Montpellier	31	13	9	9	42	34	48
Strasbourg	32	12	11	9	43	35	47
Guingamp	31	12	11	8	29	24	47
Rennes	31	12	11	8	37	35	47
Nantes	32	12	11	9	37	36	47
Le Havre	32	11	9	12	30	37	42
Bastia	31	12	5	14	41	42	41
Lyon	32	9	14	9	35	35	41
Bordeaux	32	10	6	16	39	46	36
Cannes	31	10	6	15	36	43	36
Nice	32	9	8	15	31	40	35
Lille	32	6	12	14	23	42	30
St Etienne	32	5	14	13	31	49	29
Gueugnon	32	5	12	13	22	43	27
Martigues	32	6	4	22	22	53	22

GERMAN LEAGUE: Karlsruher SC 3 Hamburger SV 1; 1860 Munich 1 Schalke 1; SC Freiburg 2 FC Cologne 0; FC Kaiserslautern 0 Werder Bremen 0; Bayer Leverkusen 1 FC Bayern 2; Borussia Dortmund 6 Eintracht Frankfurt 0; KFC Uerdingen 1 Fortuna Duesseldorf 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Dortmund	23	15	6	2	60	25	51
B Munich	24	16	2	6	53	31	50
Moenchngdbch	22	11	4	7	35	35	37
VfB Stuttgart	23	9	8	6	47	44	35
Schalke 04	23	8	10	5	27	27	34
Hamburg SV	23	8	9	6	37	33	33
Freiburg	24	9	6	9	28	26	33
B Leverkusen	22	7	10	5	26	18	31
H Rostock	21	7	8	6	32	28	29
Munich 1860	24	7	8	9	34	37	29
SC Karlsruhe	24	7	8	9	33	36	29
Werder Bremen	24	5	12	7	23	29	27
E Frankfurt	24	6	8	10	34	46	26
Dusseldorf	24	5	10	9	25	35	25
FC Cologne	24	4	12	8	21	26	24
Sankt Pauli	22	5	7	10	28	35	22
FC Kaisersltm	23	3	12	8	20	30	21
Uerdingen	24	2	10	12	22	39	16

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 2 Padova 1; Cremonese 2 Lazio 1; Fiorentina 0 Juventus 1; AC Milan 3 Parma 0; AS Roma 2 Piacenza 1; Sampdoria 2 Atalanta 3; Udinese 1 Inter Milan 2, Vicenza 3 Napoli 0.

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

Premier division: Accrington Stanley 2 Frickley 1, Bamber Bridge 4 Marine 4; Bishop Auckland 1 Boston 3; Blyth Spartans 3 Winsford 2; Colwyn Bay 2 Spennymoor 3; Gainsborough 2 Barrow 0; Guiseley 3 Droylsden 0; Knowsley 2 Witton 2; Leek 4 Matlock 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bamber Bridge	33	17	13	2	68	35	64
Boston	35	19	4	12	69	48	61
Hyde Utd	31	17	7	7	66	31	58
Barrow	33	15	11	7	53	32	56
Gainsborough	33	15	10	8	49	34	55
Emley	33	15	9	9	46	34	54
Witton Alb	34	16	6	12	53	51	54
Blyth Sp	31	14	9	8	58	44	51
Guiseley	32	14	9	9	49	38	51
* Acc Stanley	34	14	11	9	49	44	50
B Auckland	36	12	10	14	50	50	46
Spennymoor	33	10	14	9	49	47	44
Marine	30	11	10	9	40	37	43
Knowsley	36	12	6	18	52	76	42
Leek Town	34	9	13	12	45	43	40
Chorley	31	10	6	15	50	56	36
Colwyn Bay	32	7	14	11	34	44	35
Winsford	31	7	12	12	37	56	33
* Frickley	34	7	11	16	46	74	29
Droylsden	34	7	7	20	46	88	28
Matlock	34	6	9	19	59	71	27
Buxton	32	4	9	19	26	63	21

* 3 points deducted

First division: Ashton United 2 Alfreton 1; Bradford Park Avenue 4 Worksop 4; Congleton 1 Leigh 0; Eastwood Town 1 Atherton LR 0; Farsley Celtic 4 Radcliffe 1; Gretna 1 Warrington 3; Harrogate Town 2 Fleetwood 2; Lancaster 2 Lincoln United 0; Netherfield 1 Curzon Ashton 0; Workington 1 Whitley Bay 0

BEAZER HOMES

Premier division: Atherstone 2 Gloucester 1; Baldock 4 Salisbury 2; Chelmsford 0 Burton 0; Cheltenham 1 Hastings 2; Crawley 3 VS Rugby 1; Dorchester 1 Worcester 2; Halesowen 2 Merthyr 1; Ilkeston 1 Rushden and Diamonds 1; Newport AFC 0 Gravesend and Northfleet 1; Sudbury 3 Stafford 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Rushden & D	32	23	7	2	80	28	76
Halesowen	33	20	9	4	57	31	69
Worcester	32	17	8	7	49	31	59
Cheltenham	33	16	8	9	58	49	56
Gloucester	33	16	7	10	56	38	55
Merthyr	31	17	3	11	55	48	54
Gresley	29	15	6	8	49	37	51
Hastings	31	13	8	10	54	44	47
Burton	33	12	9	12	45	42	45
Chelmsford	33	11	12	10	40	42	45
Baldock	34	11	9	14	47	49	42
Salisbury	34	12	6	16	47	58	42
Newport AFC	29	11	7	11	43	41	40
Gravesend & N	31	11	7	13	46	52	40
Cambridge C	32	11	6	15	42	51	39
Crawley	30	8	11	11	41	46	35
Sudbury	30	9	7	14	48	57	34
Dorchester	29	9	5	15	48	44	32
Atherstone	33	7	9	17	44	64	30
Stafford	32	9	2	21	49	72	29
Ilkeston	32	6	7	19	37	75	25
VS Rugby	32	5	7	20	30	68	22

Midland division: Bedworth 2 Buckingham Town 1, Bury Town 2 Solihull 0; Corby 1 Redditch 2; Evesham 4 Grantham 0; Hinckley Town 2 Bridgnorth 0, Moor Green 1 Bilston 1; Paget 0 Kings Lynn 2; RC Warwick 0 Dudley Town 0; Rothwell 3 Sutton Coldfield 1; Stourbridge 0 Nuneaton 1; Tamworth 2 Leicester United 4

Southern division: Ashford 2 Clevedon 1; Braintree 2 Witney 1; Cinderford 0 Waterlooville 4; Fisher 93 2 Fareham 2; Fleet 0 Forest Green 3; Havant 2 Trowbridge 0; Margate 2 Bashley 1; Newport IOW 3 Sittingbourne 1; Poole 0 Tonbridge Angels 1; Weston-super-Mare 1 Weymouth 1; Yate 4 Erith and Belvedere 0

ICIS

Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 1 Hayes 2; Carshalton 0 Boreham Wood 0; Chertsey 1 Harrow 6; Enfield 2 St Albans 2; Hendon 4 Walton and Hersham 0; Hitchin 1 Grays 0; Kingstonian 1 Aylesbury 1; Purfleet 3 Dulwich 1; Sutton United 3 Worthing 1; Yeading 3 Bromley 0; Yeovil 3 Molesey 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
St Albans	35	18	10	7	64	33	64
Hayes	32	18	10	4	54	25	64
Dulwich	32	18	9	5	66	43	63
Enfield	32	18	6	8	58	28	60
Yeovil	32	17	9	6	68	43	60
Kingstonian	32	16	10	6	49	26	58
Boreham Wood	29	15	9	5	45	23	54
Carshalton	29	16	5	8	52	38	53
Aylesbury	30	14	10	6	49	30	52
Sutton Utd	34	14	10	10	58	47	52
Harrow Bor	31	14	8	9	55	42	50
B Stortford	32	13	7	12	44	40	46
Purfleet	32	11	7	14	43	50	40
Chertsey	33	11	6	16	39	54	39
Hitchin	33	9	8	16	35	56	35
Yeading	32	7	11	14	31	45	32
Grays	32	8	8	16	33	49	32
Hendon	31	7	7	17	34	52	28
Walton & H	33	7	5	21	32	61	26
Molesey	32	6	6	20	30	67	24
Bromley	33	5	5	23	39	82	20
Worthing	33	4	6	23	32	76	18

First division: Abingdon Town 1 Thame 2; Aldershot Town 3 Whyteleafe 0, Barking 0 Uxbridge 2; Basingstoke 2 Tooting and Mitcham 0; Chesham 0 Bognor Regis 1, Heybridge Swifts 4 Berkhamsted 2; Leyton Pennant 4 Barton 2; Ruislip Manor 2 Billericay 2; Staines 3 Marlow 1; Wembley 0 Oxford City 2; Wokingham 2 Maidenhead United 1

Second division: Bedford Town 2 Croydon 0, Bracknell 3 Hampton 5, Cheshunt 1 Wivenhoe 4; Dorking 0 Saffron Walden 3; Egham 3 Chalfont St Peter 1, Hemel Hempstead 3 Hungerford 0; Leatherhead 2 Edgware 3, Metropolitan Police 2 Banstead 1; Tilbury 1 Witham 1, Ware 1 Canvey Island 0

Third division: Aveley 0 Cove 0, Epsom and Ewell 1 East Thurrock 1; Harlow 4 Lewes 3, Hertford 3 Flackwell Heath 4, Hornchurch 1 Camberley 3, Kingsbury 2 Clapton 2; Southall 2 Horsham 6, Wealdstone 3 Tring 1; Windsor and Eton 2 Leighton 0; Wingate and Finchley 2 Harefield 3

FA TROPHY

Fourth round: Bromsgrove 0 Northwich 1; Chorley 3 Gateshead 1; Gresley 0 Macclesfield 2. Hyde 3 Stevenage 2

FA VASE: Semi-finals, second leg: Clitheroe 2 Mangotsfield 0 (aet, Clitheroe won 2-1 on agg); Flixton 0 Brigg Town 1 (Brigg Town won 1-0 on agg)

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 2 Consett 1, Billingham Synthonia 3 Shildon 0; Chester-le-Street 2 Whickham 2, Dunston Federation 1 Whitby 2; Ferryhill 0 Durham 2; Guisborough 0 West Auckland 1, Peterlee 1 Murton 3; RTM Newcastle 3 Eppleton CW 0; Stockton 2 Crook 0; Tow Law 4 Seaham Red Star 3

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm 2 Westbury 3; Calne 1 Bridport 0, Chippenham 1 Bideford 1, Frome 0 Backwell 3, Paulton 2 Crediton 2; Torrington 4 Elmore 0

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers 1 Burscough 0; Bootle 3 Eastwood Hanley 2; Darwen 2 Penrith 3, Holker Old Boys 6 Nantwich 0; Mossley 1 Prescot 1, Newcastle Town 4 Kidsgrove 2, St Helens 1 Glossop North End 0, Salford 0 Chadderton 1; Skelmersdale 1 Rossendale 2

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 1 Huntly 2; Buckie Thistle 4 Fort William 0; Fraserburgh 1 Elgin 1; Peterhead 3 Deveronvale 1; Rothes 1 Nairn County 1; Wick Academy 2 Keith 1.

BANK'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 1 Bloxwich 1; Darlaston FC 2 Westfields F.C. 3; Pelsall Villa 3 Walsall Wood FC 2, Lye 3 Gornal 1; Stourport 0 Malvern 1; Wolverhampton Casuals 5 Ettingshall 5

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT: Premier division: Kynoch IMI 5 Britannia OB 1; Sutton 0 Scarlet Hifi 0; Smethwick Hall OB 3 Old Wulfrunians 3, Village 4 New Fullbrook 2.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford 3 Viking Sports 0; Chipstead 4 DCA Basingstoke 1; Cranleigh 2 Eton Wick 2; Godalming and Guildford 3 Ash 0; Hartley Wintney 0 Feltham 0; Horley 0 Bedfont 0; Peppard 1 Farnham 0; Reading 1 Merstham 3; Sandhurst 1 Netherne 0; Walton Casuals 2 Cobham 2; Westfield 4 Raynes Park Vale 1

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Ansells 0 Coventry Sphinx 0, Handrahan Timbers 1 Massey Ferguson 2; Kings Heath 2 Bloxwich 5; Olton Royale 2 Wellesbourne 1; Northfield 1 Knowle 3; Southam 4 Highgate 1, Studley BKL 3 Coleshill 3, Upton 3 Shirley 3; West Midland Fire Service 3 Chelmsley 0

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury 2 Burnham 0; Banbury 0 Cirencester 2; Brackley 1 Fairford 0; Carterton 1 Swindon Supermarine 2; North Leigh 7 Shortwood 2; Tuffley 8 Bicester 1.

HEREWARD SPORTS, United Counties league: Premier division: Boston 7 Wootton 0, Desborough 4 Stamford 1; Eynesbury 2 S and L Corby 2; Kempston 0 Holbeach 4; Long Buckby 2 Potton 2; Mirrlees Blackstone 3 Cogenhoe 2; Newport Pagnell 3 Wellingborough 1; St Neots 0 Raunds 0; Spalding 2 Northampton Spencer 1, Stotfold 3 Bourne 1

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell 1 Hinckley Athletic 2; Blakenall 2 Stratford 2; Boldmere St Michaels 1 Shepshed Dynamo 4; Halesowen Harriers 2 Rushall Olympic 2; Oldbury 6 Stapenhill 0, Shifnal 0 Sandwell 3; West Midlands Police 6 Bolehall Swifts 0; Willenhall 1 Chasetown 0

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss 5 Wisbech 0, Fakenham 4 Sudbury 0; Hadleigh 0 Newmarket 4, March 1 Lowestoft 1, Stowmarket 1 Harwich and Parkeston 1; Tiptree 0 Great Yarmouth 2, Watton 0 Halstead 3; Wroxham 3 Woodbridge 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington 7 Cowes Sports 1, Andover 8 Swanage and Herston 0; BAT 0 East Cowes 2, Bemerton Heath Harl 4 Portsmouth RN 0; Eastleigh 1 Totton 1; Thatcham 3 Aerostructures 0; Whitchurch 3 Downton 4, Wimborne 2 Bournemouth 1

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey 2 Shillington 1; Welwyn Garden 1 Biggleswade 7; Tottington 1 Harpenden 2; Hatfield 5 Langford 1, Letchworth 2 Potters Bar 2; Hoddesdon 1 London Colney 1; Royston 1 Brache Sparta 1

NUCLEAR ELECTRIC: Kent County league: First division: Bishopsbourne 7 Univ Of Kent 2; Bond Sports 1 Broomfield 1; Kennington 3 New Romney 1; Rusthall 6 Swanscombe 0; Rye 4 Woodnesborough 0; Snowdown 1 Lydd 1; Sutton 4 Wellcome (Saturday) 4; Tenterden 4 Bromley Green 1.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carthusians 0 Chigwellians 1; Foresters 6 Malvernians 2. First division: Haberdashers 2 Wykehamists 3; Wellingburians 3 Harrovians 3.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Isleworthians 2 Hamptonians 4; Ignatians 5 Danes 0; Glyn 3 Clapham 0; Aloysians 4 Tenisonians 2; Latymer 0 Meadonians 2. First division: Tenisonians 3 Manorians 3; Tiffinians 1 Vaughanians 3; Shene Grammarians 1 Suttonians 5; Chertsey Salesians 1 Wilsonians 1; Phoenix 2 Kingsburians 3.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge United 2 Portsmouth 4; Charlton Athletic 1 Leyton Orient 2; Chelsea 1 Norwich City 1; Fulham 0 Ipswich Town 5; Tottenham Hotspur 2 Queens Park Rangers 0; West Ham United 3 Watford 2. Second division: AFC Bournemouth 1 Wycombe Wanderers 3; Brentford 3 Crystal Palace 3; Brighton and Hove Albion 4 Bristol Rovers 0; Colchester United 1 Tottenham Hotspur 1; Luton Town 2 Southampton 1; Wimbledon 3 Swindon Town 1.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: South Bank Poly 0 Old Actonians 2; West Wickham 2 Crouch End Vampires 2; Civil Service 3 Kew Association 2; Old Esthamerians 2 Winchmore Hill 2; Carshalton 2 East Barnet OG 2; Alexandra Park 1 Barclays Bank 5; Polytechnic 3 Lloyds Bank 0; Alleyn OB 4 Brentham 2, Southgate Olympic 3 Broomfield 1, Bank of England 1 Merton 2; Reigate Priory 1 Cuaco 3

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: First division: Albanian 0 Parkfield 2, Nottsborough 1 Hale End 2; Ulysses 3 Old Grammarians 4. Second division: City of London 2 UCL Academicals 3; Corinthian Casuals 3 Old Woodhouseians 1; Ealing Association 1 Hadley 1; Mill Hill Village 3 Old Bealonians 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hailsham 3 Burgess Hill 0, Hassocks 1 Ringmer 2; Horsham YMCA 0 Arundel 4; Langney Sports 0 Three Bridges 0; Oakwood 4 Mile Oak 2; Portfield 4 Whitehawk 2; Southwick 1 Crowborough 1; Stamco 4 Pagham 0; Wick 2 Eastbourne Town 0

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham 1 Chatham 3; Corinthian 2 Ramsgate 2; Cray 2 Thamesmead 2; Deal 5 Hythe 1, Faversham 0 Herne Bay 6; Folkestone Invicta 0 Greenwich 3; Tunbridge Wells 2 Crockenhill 1

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 1 Connah's Quay 0; Caernarfon 4 Llanelli 0; Cemaes Bay 0 Conwy 2; Flint Town 0 Llansantffraid 5; Holywell 2 Cwmbran 0; Porthmadog 2 Barry 3; Rhyl 1 Afan Lido 0; Ton Pentre 2 Briton Ferry 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Barry Town	30	23	5	2	70	17	74
Conwy	31	17	10	4	82	42	61
Flint Town	33	17	6	10	66	46	57
Bangor City	32	17	6	9	59	52	57
Newtown	29	16	8	5	46	30	56
Caernarfon	33	14	11	8	65	43	53
Caersws	28	13	5	10	61	68	44
Connah's Quay	30	10	12	8	51	45	42
Ebbw Vale	30	11	9	10	39	35	42
Porthmadog	33	11	9	13	48	49	42
Cwmbran	28	10	10	8	41	32	40
Inter Cardiff	30	10	8	12	45	47	38
Llansantffraid	30	10	7	13	49	47	37
Holywell	31	10	6	15	47	58	36
Ton Pentre	31	7	13	11	36	48	34
Aberystwyth	31	8	8	15	45	54	32
Cemaes Bay	29	9	5	15	42	61	32
Rhyl	31	8	7	16	36	64	31
Briton Ferry	31	7	8	16	46	77	29
Llanelli	32	6	7	19	43	74	25
Afan Lido	31	5	6	20	21	59	21

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor 1 Glentoran 1; Cliftonville 0 Portadown 4, Crusaders 4 Linfield 2. Glenavon 3 Ards 1. First division: Ballyclare 1 Larne 1, Ballymena 3 Newry 0; Distillery 1 Coleraine 1, Omagh 6 Carrick 2.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	56	57	58
1	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	[illegible]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	3

FORECAST: Possible jackpot for 24 points; dividend forecast is very good with 8 score draws and 4 no-score draws

هكذا من الاصل

Paris puts spring in rugby league's step

Christopher Irvine

on the French club striving to hold its own in Europe

The Charlety Stadium, a giant concrete saddle, sits astride the thirteenth and fourteenth *arrondissements*. In the Parc Montsouris, opposite, Lenin once strolled and took in the now decaying grandeur of a reproduction of the Bardo Palace in Tunis. Revolution is again in the air. Not that signs of it are instantly visible in this corner of southeast Paris.

It is here that rugby league's summer adventure, the European Super League, kicks off on Friday. Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), the *arrivistes*, tackle Sheffield Eagles. Imagine, for a moment, Normandy joining the county cricket championship. Students at the Cité Universitaire next door greet the mention of *rugby à treize* with a puzzled stare.

The European dimension to the Super League is provided by a club set up in nine months. It is a remarkable feat, but self-promotion is only just under way. An oppressed sport in France, which rugby union has always sought to undermine, is cranking itself up for an unexpected big push provided by the £87 million Super League windfall. What rugby union and football talk about but have not yet got, rugby league has — a European league, albeit of 11 English clubs and one French one.

For supporters who have been drenched by leaking roofs at generally ramshackle English grounds, Paris in the springtime will come as a blessed relief. Cafés on the Champs-Elysées join the pubs of Wheldon Road, Castleford, on the list of pre-match watering-holes.

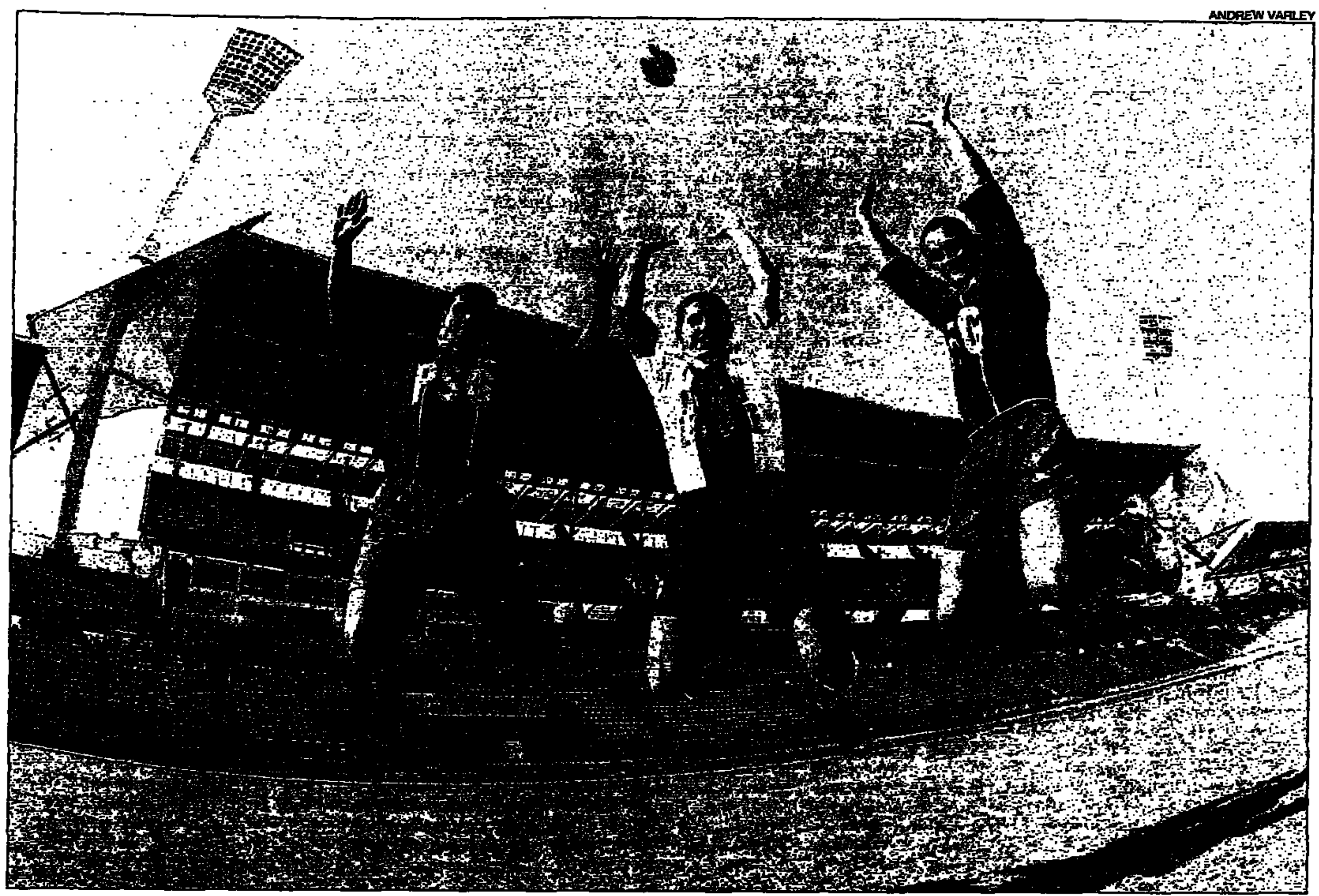
Club trips to France are booking fast. More important is what the French public make of it and whether the new team can avoid the one relegation place this season.

The squad consists of virtually the entire France national team, plus a sprinkling of antipodeans and South Sea islanders. It is a question of how competitive the side can be in proven company. Just as he is under no illusion about the size of the task, Tas Baitieri, the club's streetwise general manager, believes that without Super League the game in France was doomed.

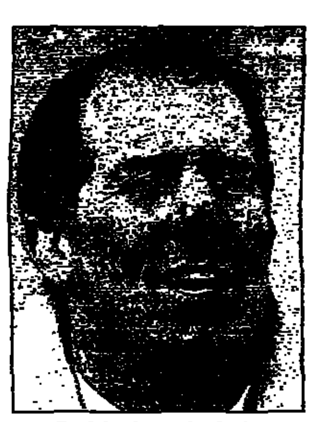
"It would have contracted to the point of village football," he said. "Traditional towns would have continued playing at a very poor standard. Suddenly, the game is regenerated, remotivated. If we don't grab this lifeline, rugby league will slip into oblivion."

Baitieri is an Australian-Italian who fell in love with France when he arrived 16 years ago. He played in the winter for Châtillon, and for Penrith and Canterbury back in Australia in the summers, before settling in the country for a life of missionary work with the Fédération de Rugby à XIII until the advent of Super League.

The initial aim was to have two sides in France. Although at the heart of rugby league's southern base, Toulouse was quickly rejected. All efforts were directed into Paris, which was seen as having the profile to project the sport more fully. It is eight years since rugby league had television exposure in France, but Canal Plus, the satellite channel, has made a three-year commitment to broadcast PSG matches. Even a traditionally apathetic press is taking note.


ANDREW VARLEY

Adams, Banquet and Lucchese hope to launch Paris Saint-Germain, and the Super League, in style at the Charlety Stadium on Friday


Baitieri: optimistic

In a fashion-conscious city, the PSG label is an important mark of credibility and respectability. Rugby league joins basketball, handball, volleyball, athletics, boxing, judo and, most significant, football in the PSG omni-sports organisation. When introduced to the PSG home crowd at the European Cup Winners' Cup football match with Parma last Thursday, the rugby league team got some curious looks but also an enthusiastic reception, which is likely to be repeated on Friday night. A crowd of 15,000 is expected at the Charlety Stadium.

Having to fly players from Toulouse for games is a drawback. "Long-term, we are looking to relocate everyone here, but our first priority must be to stay in Super League by avoiding the dreaded twelfth spot," Baitieri said. "If we can do that, we'll have been successful. With our international players and the overseas contingent, we'll be competitive."

Darren Adams is a second-row forward from New Zealand with a rugby union pedigree at Racing Club. As a convert to league, he is something of a rarity in France. "In league I'm handling the ball more, doing more, whereas union in France is following the robot model in England," Adams said. "It's a bit like going to church and finding 'He' doesn't exist. I know a number of union players who feel the same way."

Not that a flood of converts is expected. PSG is the first fully professional league club in France, but payments are no more than at a first division union club. For Laurent Lucchese, the full back, Paris represents a homecoming after three years at Huddersfield and Sheffield. "If you wanted to progress in league you had to go to England," Lucchese said. "Now it is different. We'll be meeting far better opposition, which means we'll improve, and players like myself, Freddie Banquet and Patrick Entat, with English club experience, bring with us the principles of English discipline."

In Carcassonne, Villeneuve, Lézignan and St Estève, where rugby league is part of local life, there is jealousy and suspicion that the capital has been chosen for the Super League club.

"The towns in the south think they've been let down," Baitieri said. "But they realise, too, that rugby league needs to rationalise, be in big cities like Paris, where you've a support base, media exposure and sponsors. The games will be seen there on TV and we're taking the Wigan game down there on July 20." The acid tests, however, will come at Wigan, St Helens, Warrington and Bradford, all in the next two months.

Bradford ahead of schedule as Smith builds bright future

Bradford Bulls 28
Leeds 6

By Christopher Irvine

ON ARRIVAL at Bradford Bulls from Sydney St George seven months ago, Brian Smith felt like an Oxford University lecturer turned kindergarten teacher. His pupils are learning fast, but even their Australian coach doubted that they would graduate quite so quickly to a Silk Cut Challenge Cup final after 23 years of trying in vain.

Smith might have despaired on the bleak night, four months ago, when 13 Bradford players failed to beat 11 from St Helens, their opponents at Wembley on April 27. "Nothing makes you learn more than a real embarrassment, and that was right up there at the top," Smith said.

Of course there have been substantial personnel changes at Odsal since then and, though not yet the finished article, the brazenly confident semi-final victory at Huddersfield on Saturday exposed the limitations in the Leeds make-up and underlined the potential at Smith's disposal.

No club has embraced the idea of Super League with such alacrity as Bradford, or built up its playing resources so assiduously. Smith's was the key appointment and everything else looks to be falling into place. "This team can significantly improve, if they keep reacting to me and I keep my shoulder at the wheel," Smith said.

Bradford were rugby league dinosaurs not so very long ago, a role that their neighbours are now in danger of fulfilling. Too many fine players have left Headingley and not been replaced. Dean Bell, the Leeds coach, was candid in his admission that he has had enough of knocking on the boardroom door, and that the ten per cent of players he is ready to dispense with are lucky to have stayed this long.

Leeds, for book-balancing purposes, needed to reach Wembley for a third year. But a generally inexperienced pack was soundly beaten by a streetwise Bradford six, and older heads foundered in the storm that the opposition whipped up to take a 16-0 lead inside the first 12 minutes.

Apart from a Cummins try in the sixteenth minute, Leeds lacked the inspiration and direction that Robbie Paul, the 20-year-old captain and scrum half, provided so tellingly for Bradford. "We are disappointed but we haven't got time to sulk about it," Bell said. "We didn't perform to our potential, but next week the start of Super League is a bigger challenge."

The most glorious sight of the compelling encounter on Saturday was of Paul Loughlin, the former Great Britain back, in full flight. Donougher and Loughlin thundered down the left with devastating effect, furnishing Jonathan Scales with three tries. Calland, looking hungry after a three-month suspension, and Knox got the others and Cook punished his former side with four goals.

Loughlin helped to mete out Bradford's salutary lesson last November while wearing a St Helens shirt.

Two weeks later, he, Nickle and Dwyer departed Knowsley Road as makeweights in the deal for Paul Newlove. There will be points to prove on both sides at Wembley next month.

Having confounded the theory on Saturday that Bradford Bulls are no more than a head-down and charge outfit, Smith's biggest problem is now one of selection. He has Tomlinson and Lowes available at scrum half and hooker for five Super League games before the final, for which the new pair will still be cup-tied.

Results 36

SCORERS: Bradford: Tries: Scales (3), Calland, Knox. Goals: Cook (4). Leeds: Try: Cummins. Goal: Holroyd.

BRADFORD BULLS: P Cook (sub, D Longo, 68min), G Christie, M Calland, P Loughlin, J Scales, G Bradley, R Paul, B McDermott, J Donohue, K Fairbank (sub, Knox, 58), J Donougher, S Nickle, S Knox (sub, P Medley, 28).

LEEDS: A Gibbons (sub, M Golden, 29), J Fallon, K Iro, F Cummins, P Hassan, G Mann (sub, Gibbons 72), G Holroyd, N Harmon, M Shaw, H Howard, A Morley, J Field (sub, M Schultz, 27), M Forshaw (sub, Field, 51).

Referee: S Cummings

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Alan Truscott (the bridge columnist of the *New York Times*) and Ken Barbour were once British internationals, but have both lived in the US for many years. They found an elegant defence on this hand, from the US nationals at Atlanta in November.

Dealer South **East-West game** **Teams**

North:
♠ A 7 5 3
♥ 4
♦ A K 8 5 4
♣ 10 7 2

West:
♠ Q
♥ K Q 9 8 7
♦ Q 10 9 6 3
♣ J 4

East:
♠ J 10 8 6 4 2
♥ J 6 5 3
♦ 2
♣ A 5

South:
♠ K 9
♥ A 10 2
♦ J 7
♣ K Q 9 8 6 3

S	W	N	E
1 NT	2 H (1)	3 H	4 H
5 C	All Pass		

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: king of hearts

(1) Hearts and a minor

Truscott led the king of hearts against Five Clubs, and declarer decided to follow the simple line of ruffing a heart at once, coming back to the king of spades, and ruffing a second heart. Now he led dummy's last club; Barbour rose with the ace of clubs, but resisted the temptation to give his partner a spade ruff. Instead he led a diamond, to the jack, queen, and ace. To declarer's intense irritation the lead was in dummy, and no matter which plain suit he exited with one defender would ruff, and give his partner a ruff in the other suit, for one down.

Notice that if East immediately gives West a spade ruff on winning the ace of clubs, declarer can later enter his hand with a spade ruff to draw East's remaining trump.

☐ The annual match between the Houses of Lords and Commons was played last Friday. This resulted in a win by the Lords of 760 aggregate points, taking their lead in the series to 12-10. The best played hand award went to Bridget Prentice of the Commons.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

☐ *Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.*

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AXIOPISTY
a. The gable of a Greek temple
b. Drunk
c. Credibility

REMONTADO
a. A mountain hermit
b. A substitute horse
c. Recurrence (of nausea)

ABNEGATE
a. A Jesuit legate
b. To repeal
c. To deny oneself

PUSILLANIMITY
a. The wild pea flower
b. Faint-heartedness
c. Intestine hatred

Answers on page 44

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Flying start

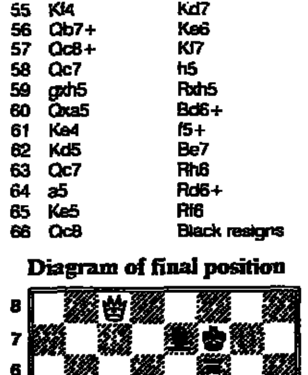
The Bulgarian Grandmaster, Veselin Topalov, has made a brilliant start in the Euwe Memorial tournament in Amsterdam. He has beaten PCA World Champion, Garry Kasparov, and his challenger, Viswanathan Anand, in the first two rounds. The tournament is one of the strongest to be held this year.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Garry Kasparov
Amsterdam, March 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Bc4	e6
7	Bb3	Nbd7
8	f4	Nc5
9	0-0	Ncxe4
10	Nxe4	Nxe4
11	f5	e5
12	Qh5	Qe7
13	Qf3	Nc5
14	Nc6	Qc7
15	Bd5	a5
16	Bg5	Ra6
17	Nd8	f6
18	Nf7	Rg8
19	Be3	g6
20	Ng5	Rg7
21	fxg6	Rxg6
22	Bf7+	Qxf7
23	Nxf7	Kxf7
24	Bxc5	dxc5
25	Rad1	Be7
26	Rd5	Bg4
27	Qe4	Kg7
28	Rfd1	Bxd1
29	Rxd1	Re6
30	Qf5	Kf7
31	Re1	b6
32	h4	Rg7
33	Kf1	Bd8
34	Kf2	Bc7
35	Kf3	Ke7
36	Re4	Kf7
37	Rg4	Re7
38	Ke4	Rxg4+
39	Qxg4	Bd8
40	a4	Kf8
41	c3	Rg7
42	Qc8	Ke8
43	Qe6+	Kf8
44	g4	Rf7
45	h5	Rg7
46	h6	Rg6
47	Qd5	Be7
48	Kf5	Rxh6
49	Qb7	e4
50	Qb8+	Kf7
51	Qxb6	e3
52	Qe6+	Ke8
53	Qxe3	Rg6
54	Qe4	Rg5+
55	Kf4	Kd7
56	Qb7+	Ke6
57	Qc8+	Kf7
58	Qc7	h5
59	gxh5	Rxh5
60	Qxa5	Bd6+
61	Ke4	f5+
62	Kd5	Be7
63	Qc7	Rh6
64	a5	Rd6+
65	Ke5	Rf6
66	Qc8	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

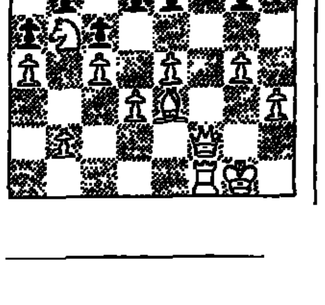


☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. The positions this week and for some time to come will celebrate the turbulent genius of Alexander Alekhine who died 50 years ago this month. This position is from the game Alekhine - Moller, Zurich 1934. White has penetrated the black position by tripling his major pieces on the f-file. How does he now complete the invasion to score a quick win?



Solution, page 44

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Rough Quest cleared for National run

By Richard Evans, racing journalist of the year

ROUGH QUEST looks certain to run in the Martell Grand National on Saturday after delighting his trainer, Terry Casey, in a weekend workout.

The participation of the Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up had been in doubt, with Casey and Andrew Wates, the ten-year-old's owner, considering going instead for the Martell Cup Chase at Aintree on Thursday.

Rough Quest has been left in both races at the five-day stage but Casey said yesterday: "He's virtually certain to go for the National. He worked very well on Saturday and is a well-handicapped horse. He's in excellent form."

There is a question mark over the ability of Rough Quest to see out the demanding 4½-mile stamina test, but Casey reasoned: "It's a flat track and he travels very well throughout a race. They really only race over the last half mile so I would be hopeful."

Significantly, he added: "I didn't think he was spot on before Cheltenham; he didn't work very well the Sunday before the Gold Cup and I was not entirely happy with him. I thought he ran a little bit flat and he worked much better on Saturday. I rode him over a mile against Flight Lieutenant and he pleased me."

Meanwhile, Miinnehoma, winner of the race two years ago, is not certain to line up on Saturday. His trainer, Martin Pipe, is weighing up alternatives for the 13-year-old.

"He is entered in another race at Aintree and we will wait and see whether he runs," Pipe said. "He is very well and he may go for the National or he might wait for the Scottish National at Ayr."

Pipe is still set to have at least three runners in the race. "Chatam, Encore Un Peu and Riverside Boy are all likely to run," he said.

Ground considerations also mean that Jenny Pitman is delaying a decision on Lusty Light's participation. She is also considering Thursday's Martell Cup for the gelding.

Pitman ran six horses in the National last year when Royal Athlete gave her a second victory in the race. But she may rely on Superior Finish, for whom Richard Dunwoody was booked yesterday.

Simon Earle was yesterday hopeful that Dextra Dove will recover from injury in time to run at Aintree. "He worked yesterday and I was happy with him," the trainer said.

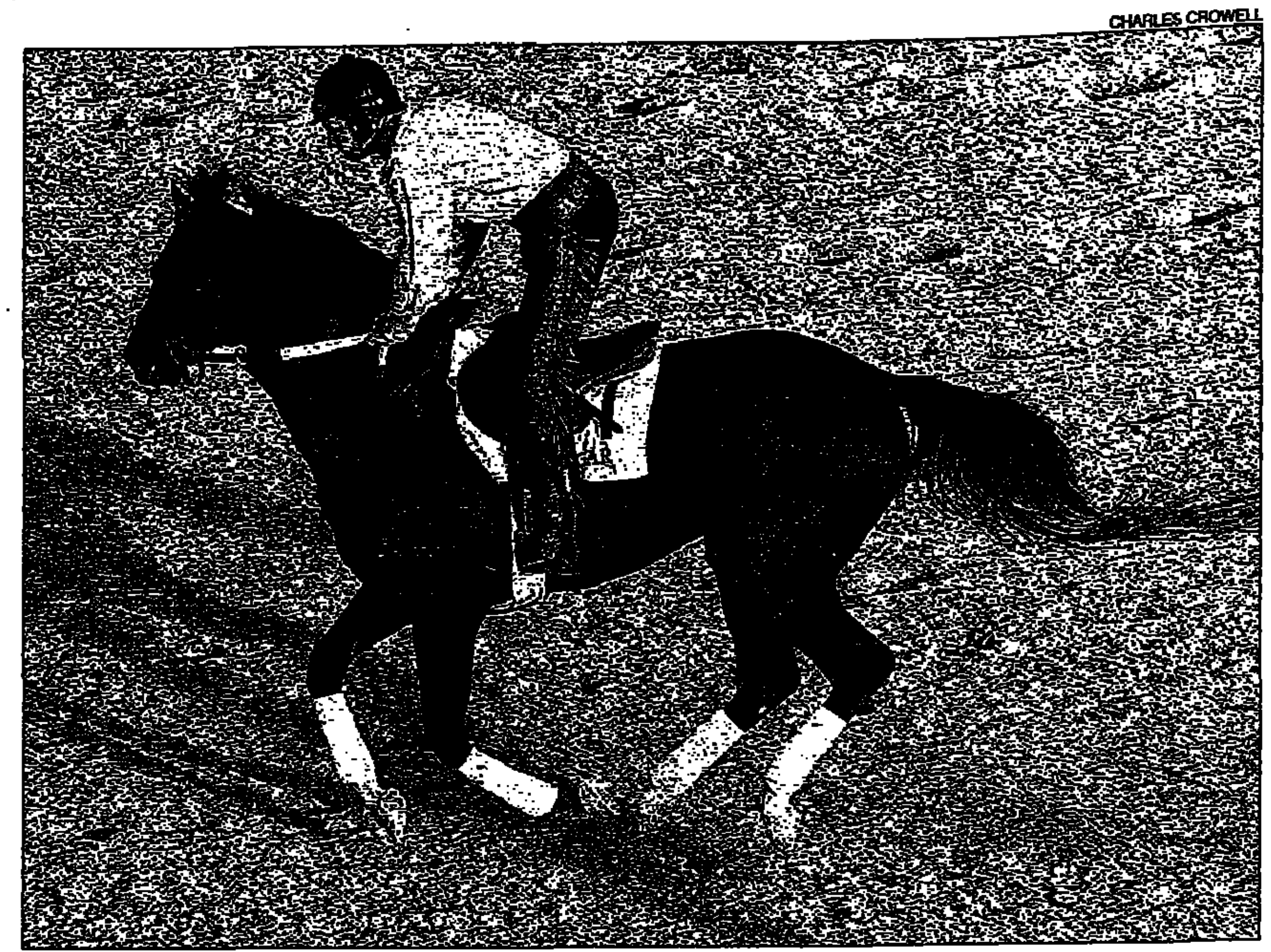
Tony Dobbin is likely to miss the ride on Tartan Tyrant after dislocating a shoulder at Kelso on Friday. Paul Carberry stands by to deputise.

Coral's latest betting: 4-1 Rough Quest, 6-1 Lo Stregone (from 7-1), 10-1 Superior Finish (from 14-1), Deep Bramble, Son Of War, Young Hustler, 14-1 Life Of A Lord, 16-1 bar.

Saturday's results, page 36

Dubai lays ground for clash of champions

Julian Muscat finds the top thoroughbreds returning to the home of founding ancestors



CHARLES CROWELL

Cigar flexes his muscles during early-morning exercise at the Nad Al Sheba racecourse yesterday

It has finally come back to where it all started. More than 250 years after three Arabian stallions were plucked from the desert to establish the thoroughbred racehorse, the best of their distant ancestors have gathered in Dubai for the inaugural US$4 million Dubai World Cup.

A community founded on a fusion of cultures has contrived an event of magnificent proportions. Never before have national champions from the United States, Australia, Europe and Japan competed for the right to be feted as the finest of all.

Previous efforts have stumbled; now this evolving emirate reaches out for what established racing nations believed was possible only through the medium of a Walt Disney fantasy. It is Packer without the circus. To decry what will unfold at Nad Al Sheba racecourse on Wednesday would be to indulge in a deep-rooted cynicism.

Bill Mott is not among the ideological objectors and his view matters more than most. For Mott, among the cream of American horsemen, has ventured to the desert with Cigar, the unofficial world champion, whose reputation will stain more in defeat than it will gain in victory. Cigar brings with him an aura of invincibility and instant credibility to a contest with the boldest of names. Without his pomp, this would be just another valuable horse race.

There are several fronts on which Mott might have graciously excused himself. Cigar's training has been interrupted by injury, the racing surface will be unfamiliar and the effects of lengthy travel unknown. But Mott spoke yesterday not of complications but competition. "We brought the horse here because of the size of the challenge," he said. "We want to see if he can be a world competitor. His preparation has not been ideal, but we still believe he can come through. We wouldn't be here otherwise."

Amid the weight of petrodollars at stake, some have doubted the sincerity of Mott's remarks. Mott is the principal American trainer employed by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, the crown prince of Dubai and inspiration behind the World Cup. Detractors argue that these links may have influenced Mott's decision to support the race.

However, such thinking is exposed by the presence here of Geoff Wragg, who saddles Pentire, one of two British representatives. As Sheikh Mohammed continues to scale down his bloodstock empire, Wragg is among those to have lost his backing. Yet Wragg, too, is "supporting" the event. And as Michael Osborne, chairman of the Dubai World Cup Committee, put it: "Wherever Pentire finishes in the race itself, the horse will go back to England with all the benefits of having spent a month in Dubai."

Osborne has played a pivotal role since the World Cup concept was explored seven months ago. He is infused both by excitement and the strain of bringing it to fruition in so short a time. But time is a luxury to anyone responsible for the evolution of this extraordinary city. Within its infrastructure, the skyline changes daily and four-lane highways lead only to arid sand dunes.

Projects in the name of racing are also subject to regular change. Zabeel Stables were built as a monument four years ago by Sheikh Mohammed, who installed Satish Seemar as his private trainer. It remains a palatial facility, if one subsequently stripped of purpose by the sheikh's enthusiasm for his Godolphin operation five miles away.

With four runners among the 11-strong World Cup field, Godolphin will be defending local pride. The stable has reached high altitudes over last 12 months but this may be one instance when the sheikh would prefer to be grounded. Nothing could jeopardise the event's future more than a sweep of the first three places by Godolphin's horses.

It is imperative that Cigar does himself full justice on the Dubaian dirt. If cloudbursts of heavy rain have exacerbated concerns that Cigar may labour on this testing surface, the consensus remains that Cigar's class will see him through.

One man within Godolphin's team will have it no other way. Tom Albertrani, recently recruited to Dubai from Mott's stable, was taken aside by Simon Crisford, Godolphin's manager, and asked how they could plot Cigar's defeat.

Albertrani's response was emphatic. "There is only one way to beat Cigar. Close your eyes and keep dreaming."

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

1.50 Face It
2.20 Lloc
2.50 Sharp Stock
3.20 Ciserano
3.50 Wet Patch
4.20 Orthorhombus
4.50 **KISSING GATE** (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.20 **SEA SPOUSE**.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.50 Jennelle. 3.20 **BASOOD** (nap). 4.20 Battleship Bruce.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.50 HEADCORN MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

(2-Y-O fillies: £2,381: 5f) (11 runners)

101	(2)	SYLVANIA LIGHTS (Camelot Racing) W Muir 8-3	M Henry (5)	–
102	(4)	MOLLY MUSIC (P Axon) G Margarson 8-1	M Baird (5)	–
103	(1)	MUJADIL EXPRESS (Mrs V Goodman) J Moore 8-0	J F Egan	–
104	(7)	SWIFT REFUSAL (Wheatmille Partners) M Hayes 8-0	C Rutter	–
105	(3)	CAVIAR AND CANDY (A MacGillivray) D Cosgrove 7-13	F Lynch (5)	–
106	(8)	DOZEN ROSES (Mrs A Brown) T Jones 7-13	A Whelan (3)	–
107	(9)	JENNELLE (Mrs J Cornwell) C Dwyer 7-13	J Quinn	–
108	(5)	SUMMER RISOTTO (Hargood Ltd) D ffrench Davis 7-13	C Adamson (5)	–
109	(10)	ANATOMIC (M Foy) M Channon 7-12	A Gorman	–
110	(6)	BURBERRY QUEST (S Hunn) B Millman 7-12	J Fanning	–
111	(11)	FACE IT (Facetious Partners) W G M Turner 7-12	A Daly (5)	–

BETTING: 3-1 Anatomic, 7-2 Face It, 5-1 Burberry Quest, 6-1 Mujadil Express, Jennelle, 8-1 Sylvania Lights, 10-1 others.

1995: MAGGI FOR MARGARET 8-1 C Rutter (2-1 fav) M Channon 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

MUJADIL EXPRESS (Apr 18, 3,000gns). Half-sister by Mujadil to modest 7f winner Tara Colleen. SWIFT REFUSAL (Apr 9, 2,500gns). First foal by Emarati; dam unraced. CAVIAR CANDY (Apr 23, 1,200gns) Half-sister by Soviet Star to a juvenile 7f winner. SUMMER RISOTTO (Jan 25, 2,000gns) Sister by Forzando to Giljma, dual winner in Hong Kong. ANATOMIC (Mar 29, 1,000gns). Second foal by Dearhound.
No selection

2.20 ROCHESTER HANDICAP (£3,343: 5f) (16 runners)

201	(5)	003304	LEIGH CROFTER 10 (B,D,F,G,S) (P Dunnock) P Cundell 7-9-12	S Whitworth	[illegible]
202	(7)	6/00500-	WARDARA 101 (V,G,S) (Binding Matters) C Dwyer 4-9-11	M Wigham	88
203	(15)	65-2443	HALBERT 46 (V,D,F) (T Barker) P Burgoyne 7-9-9	D R McCabe (3)	98
204	(1)	155260-	MALIBU MAN 158 (D,G) (Church Racing) S Mellor 4-9-3	T Sprake	98
205	(9)	000-300	ROCKCRACKER 55 (F) (P Axon) G Margarson 4-9-2	P Robinson	90
206	(14)	360144-	THAI MORNING 150 (CD,F) (Thai Connection) P Harris 3-9-0	G Hind	97
207	(10)	030332-	LA BELLE DOMINIQUE 245 (R Withers) S Knight 4-8-13	V Slattery	91
208	(12)	10500-0	SECRET MISS 26 (D,S) (A Jones) A Jones 4-8-13	J Quinn	97
209	(3)	023463-	DOMICKSKY 147 (C,D,F,G,S) (Miss B Coyle) M Channon 8-8-11	D Sweeney (7)	98
210	(11)	000015-	FOLLOWMEGIRLS 147 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Martin) Mrs A King 7-8-8	A Garth	98
211	(16)	230000-	LLOC 154 (D,S) (Mrs C Rawson) C Dwyer 4-8-7	J Stack (3)	98
212	(6)	240000-	SONDERISE 303 (D,G,S) (Mrs D Wright) N Tinkler 7-8-3	G Carter	90
213	(8)	00056-5	NOMADIC DANCER 19 (M Saunders) M Saunders 4-8-1	N Adams	89
214	(4)	/0/000/	TAUBER 466 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs C Reed) P Mitchell 12-8-0	M Fenton	–
215	(13)	114000-	MAZZARELLO 110 (D,F,G) (D Hoskyns) R Curtis 6-7-13	J F Egan	91
216	(2)	00060-0	BONNY MELODY 54 (D,G) (Mrs E Dawson) P Evans 5-7-11	Amanda Sanders (5)	98

BETTING: 4-1 Domicksky, 5-1 Followmegirls, 7-1 Thai Morning, 8-1 Leigh Crofter, La Belle Dominique, 10-1 Halbert, 12-1 others

1995: NORDICO PRINCESS 4-9-12 R Cochrane (6-4 fav) G Oldroyd 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

LEIGH CROFTER about 2½l 4th of 14 to So Intrepid in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f). HALBERT short-head and 2l 3rd of 10 to The Institute Boy in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 5f). LA BELLE DOMINIQUE 1¾l 2nd of 8 to Tyrian Purple in handicap at Brighton (5f 59yd, good to firm). DOMICKSKY 1½l and neck 3rd of 14 to Leading Princess in handicap at Newcastle (5f, good to firm)
Selection: LEIGH CROFTER

2.50 SHORNECLIFFE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £2,381: 6f) (14 runners)

301	(13)	4064-	BELDRAY PARK 153 (Stainless Fasteners) Mrs A King 9-0	J Quinn	80
302	(4)	440-238	LANCASHIRE LEGEND 27 (B Taker & D Wilson) S Dow 9-0	T Quinn	91
303	(6)	0063-	MINDRACE 153 (D Abbott) K Ivory 9-0	D Biggs	98
304	(3)	00-	MISTER WOODSTICK 199 (J Sims) M Jarvis 9-0	P Robinson	–
305	(11)	6	OLD GOLD N TAN 23 (A Osborne) J Poulton 9-0	P McCabe (3)	–
306	(2)	32-	PRIDE OF BRIXTON 179 (Vorce Group) G Lewis 9-0	S Whitworth	[illegible]
307	(12)	60-	REALMS OF GLORY 167 (D Crowson) P Mitchell 9-0	A Clark	79
308	(14)	24-	SHARP STOCK 154 (Mrs M Fairbairn) B Meehan 9-0	R Hughes	98
309	(5)		WILL DO (A Smith) M Meade 9-0	V Slattery	–
310	(10)	00-2	YOUNG MAZAAD 11 (Lets Green Farm) D O'Brien 9-0	G Bardwell	85
311	(8)	00-	BLESSED SPIRIT 149 (W Stuttaford) C Wall 8-9	W Woods	95
312	(7)	4U6336-	MRS MCBADGER 140 (C Badger) B Smart 8-9	R Cochrane	98
313	(1)		PEACE HOUSE (Mrs B Speller) J Spearing 8-9	S Drowne (3)	–
314	(9)		TRIANNA (T Nakao) Lord Huntingdon 8-9	D Harrison	–

BETTING: 3-1 Pride Of Brixton, 5-1 Lancashire Legend, 6-1 Trianna, Young Mazaad, 8-1 Sharp Stock, 10-1 Mindrace, 12-1 others

1995: THEROS 9-0 T Quinn (7-2) R Hannon 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

MINDRACE 1½l 3rd of 19 to Thordis in auction maiden at Leicester (6f, firm). PRIDE OF BRIXTON 8l 2nd of 10 to Apple Musashi in maiden at Lingfield (6f, soft). YOUNG MAZAAD ½l 2nd of 10 to Our Shadee in claimer at Lingfield (AW, 6f). MRS MCBADGER ¾l and neck 3rd to Erupt in 19-runner nursery at Chepstow (6f, good to soft)
Selection: PRIDE OF BRIXTON

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JUMP LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Runs since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	120	76	58	4	-64.24
Mrs M Reveley	65	41	30	5	-59.38
D Nicholson	64	65	40	1	-57.39
P Hobbs	63	34	32	9	-23.13
G Richards	60	33	16	1	+26.01
N Twiston-Davies	58	51	42	4	-109.24
K Bailey	52	39	41	3	-65.67
Mrs J Pitman	41	28	21	5	+75.79

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	130	91	69	1	+54.83
D Bridgwater	97	68	55	8	-53.01
R Dunwoody	79	58	57	1	-50.19
P Niven	69	50	31	0	-55.91
A Maguire	61	54	55	2	-64.69
L Wyer	58	38	37	3	+38.72
M A Fitzgerald	53	66	54	10	-141.04
A Dobbin	50	36	33	1	-53.21

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.20 ALDINGTON RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £2,381: 6f 189yd) (9 runners)

401	(4)	06080-	GET TOUGH 140 (Gravy Boys Racing) S Dow 9-0	A Daly (5)	82
402	(3)	352436-	IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 213 (D Ivory) K Ivory 9-0	C Scally (7)	76
403	(2)	0050-	LONGHILL BOY 187 (Vintage Services Ltd) B Meehan 9-0	M Tebbutt	74
404	(1)	640-	NAKHAL 154 (Fort Partners) D Murray Smith 9-0	J Weaver	98
405	(8)	300-	BASOOD 157 (M Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-11	J Tate	86
406	(6)	2344-	CISERANO 253 (K Dack) M Channon 8-11	T Quinn	[illegible]
407	(9)	646-234	GREEN GEM 23 (P Madelein) S Williams 8-11	K Darley	94
408	(7)	363-	MAY QUEEN MEGAN 140 (S Harrison) Mrs A King 8-11	A Garth	87
409	(5)	0-00	VALJESS 31 (Mrs R Blake) D O'Brien 8-11	G Bardwell	–

BETTING: 3-1 Ciserano, 7-2 Basood, 4-1 Nakhal, 6-1 Green Gem, 7-1 Longhill Boy, May Queen Megan, 8-1 others.

1995: DOUBLE RUSH 9-0 J Reid (100-30) T Mills 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 2½l 3rd of 7 to Pinocchio Boy in seller over course and distance (firm) on penultimate start. BASOOD 4l 3rd of 8 to Munakeb in maiden at Thirsk (6f, firm) last term. CISERANO about 8l 4th of 7 to Royal Mark in maiden at Ayr (7f, good). GREEN GEM 3¾l 3rd to Moi Canard in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 7f). MAY QUEEN MEGAN 1¾l 3rd to Village Native in maiden here (6f, good to firm).
Selection: BASOOD

3.50 ALKHAM HANDICAP (£3,398: 1m 1f 149yd) (15 runners)

501	(12)	1/2-1331	EXPLOSIVE POWER 9 (D,G) (H Short) G Bravery 5-10-0	D R McCabe (3)	94
502	(11)	240150-	PISTOL 276 (CD,F,G) (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 6-9-7	J Weaver	87
503	(6)	010/00-0	KETABI 11 (G) (B & D Whitney) R Akehurst 5-9-7	T Quinn	–
504	(14)	1501-00	WET PATCH 74 (F,G) (P Hammond) R Hannon 4-9-6	R Hughes	94
505	(3)	02/0014-	SWINGING SIXTIES 23J (G) (K Higson) G L Moore 5-9-6	S Whitworth	86
506	(8)	000260-	BELLAS GATE BOY 198J (J Pearce) J Pearce 4-9-6	J McLaughlin	83
507	(9)	20/606/	AUDE LA BELLE 721 (F,G) (Mrs V Rapkins) S Knight 8-9-6	A McGlone	–
508	(1)	0-00306	CANARY FALCON 25 (G) (L Pipe) John Berry 5-9-4	V Smith	90
509	(13)	50200/0-	KELLY MAC 14J (D,F,G) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 6-9-4	K Darley	–
510	(4)	04-1056	OUR TOM 23 (G) (J Berry) J Wharton 4-9-4	J Quinn	92
511	(15)	60-5154	TODD 9 (G) (J Morton) P Mitchell 5-9-1	A Clark	87
512	(10)	321060-	HARVEY WHITE 136 (F) (Harvey White Partners) J Pearce 4-9-1	G Bardwell	96
513	(7)	000060-	WARNING SHOT 18J (S) (Continental Racing) M Meade 4-9-0	J Reid	[illegible]
514	(2)	90200-0	BROWN EYED GIRL 9 (Miss L Regan) B Meehan 4-9-0	M Tebbutt	93
515	(5)	064441-	NOEPROB 268 (F,G,S) (Mrs P Bradshaw) R Hodges 6-8-3	S Drowne (3)	87

BETTING: 9-2 Pistol, 5-1 Explosive Power, 8-1 Todd, 10-1 Ketabi, Swinging Sixties, Our Tom, 12-1 others

1995: QUEENS STROLLER 4-8-13 D Harrison (7-1) C Elsey 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

EXPLOSIVE POWER beat Golden Touch 3½l in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f). PISTOL best effort last term beat Dont Shoot Fairies ¾l in handicap over course and distance (firm). SWINGING SIXTIES beat Prenonamoss 1l in handicap at Goodwood (1m, good) on penultimate start. OUR TOM 11¾l 6th to Zahid in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f). TODD beat Jade Venture 1l in maiden at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f).
Selection: PISTOL

4.20 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (£3,289: 6f 189yd) (16 runners)

601	(12)	4005-60	REVEREND THICKNESS 23 (B,D,G,S) S Williams 5-10-0	R Hughes	94
602	(15)	040F25-	BATTLESHIP BRUCE 66J (G,S) (T Foreman) N Callaghan 4-9-8	J Reid	95
603	(16)	050-145	SOAKING 25 (D,F,G) (P Saunders) P Burgoyne 6-9-6	D R McCabe (3)	97
604	(4)	0/5040-	ZATOPEK 158 (A Spargo) J Cullinan 4-9-5	T Quinn	85
605	(13)	600000-	ORTHORHOMBUS 234 (B,CD,F,G) D Cosgrove 7-8-13	M Wigham	98
606	(3)	55040-6	HALLIARD 34 (G) (Rest Hill Partners) T Jones 5-8-13	A McGlone	90
607	(14)	54300-	SECRET PLEASURE 165 (Mrs S S-Phillips) R Hannon 3-8-12	Dane O'Neill (5)	90
608	(9)	510005-	ALMAPA 235 (D,G) (P Slade) R Hodges 4-8-8	S Drowne (3)	92
609	(5)	50-0505	ROCKY TWO 11 (G) (B Bennett) P Howling 5-8-6	R Cochrane	87
610	(11)	4-06006	SPEEDY SNAPS PRIDE 23 (P Cundell) P Cundell 4-8-2	J Quinn	92
611	(2)	3-63133	SEA SPOUSE 10 (G) (Seven Seas Racing) M Blanshard 5-7-13	N Adams	[illegible]
612	(6)	004004-	PRIDE OF KASHMIR 140 (New Recruits) P Harris 3-7-13	F Norton	89
613	(1)	0000-	GEE GEE TEE 140 (J Tickell) J Akehurst 3-7-12	Dale Gibson	87
614	(7)	000-	SHARP 'N' SHADY 126 (W Wallick) C Wall 3-7-11	W Lord	89
615	(8)	0/00-330	PALACEGATE GOLD 11 (B,C,F,G,S) (R Hodges) R Hodges 7-7-10	N Carlisle	82
616	(10)	030600-	TITANIUM HONDA 195 (D,G) (Mrs V Costello) D O'Brien 5-7-10	G Bardwell	87

Long handicap: Titanium Honda 6-13

BETTING: 9-2 Battleship Bruce, 5-1 Secret Pleasure, 6-1 Soaking, 8-1 Pride Of Kashmir, 10-1 Reverend Thickness, Sea Spouse 12-1 others

1995: ORTHORHOMBUS 6-9-4 M Rimmer (20-1) D Cosgrove 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

REVEREND THICKNESS 16l 7th of 12 to Zahid in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f 79yd). BATTLESHIP BRUCE about 3½l 5th of 19 to Shining Example in apprentices handicap at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm). SOAKING best recent effort beat Invocation 3l in 11-runner handicap at Lingfield (AW, 7f). ZATOPEK about 4½l 4th of 12 to Sharp Rebuff in handicap at Warwick (1m, good) on penultimate start. SECRET PLEASURE best effort last term 3l 3rd of 12 to Patria in maiden at Lingfield (7f 140yd, good). PRIDE OF KASHMIR about 3l 4th of 16 to Jerry Cutrona in nursery over course and distance (good to firm) with GEE GEE TEE (9lb better off) about 12l 13th.
Selection: SECRET PLEASURE

4.50 KINGSNORTH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,371: 1m 4f) (17 runners)

1	(6)	300-121	NIKITA'S STAR 23 (D,G) (Nikita's Partners) D Murray Smith 9-7	J Weaver	95
2	(10)	0-41216	MONTECRISTO 23 (D,G) (Matthews Racing) R Guest 9-5	F Lynch (5)	98
3	(17)	50-0430	ASKING FOR KINGS 36 (Mrs G Smith) S Dow 9-5	A Daly (5)	80
4	(16)	060-	JUMP THE LIGHTS 151 (R Crawley) S Woods 9-2	W Woods	–
5	(15)	040-	MINNISAM 151 (Mrs C Forrester) J Dunlop 8-11	T Quinn	84
6	(2)	000-6	RIVERCARE 10 (P Stoner) M Polglase 8-11	M Henry (5)	–
7	(12)	541-0	KISSING GATE 76 (G) (The Queen) R Charlton 8-10	S Sanders	90
8	(8)	50204-0	AUTOBABBLE 23 (B) (B Adams) R Hannon 8-9	J Reid	[illegible]
9	(4)	3000-	ATLANTIC MIST 177 (Wardour Partners) B Millman 8-6	S Drowne (3)	88
10	(11)	60000-0	INFLUENCE PEDLER 28 (C Brittain) C Brittain 8-5	K Darley	94
11	(13)	443	HIGHLIGHTS 40 (Bloomsbury Stud) D Morris 8-4	R Cochrane	90
12	(1)	000-	SIEGE PERILOUS 175 (S Demanuele) S Williams 8-1	J Tate	–
13	(9)	0000-	SHAMAND 188 (J McCarthy) B Meehan 8-1	J F Egan	–
14	(3)	00500-	FORLIANDO 160 (N & M Pike & Sons) M Saunders 7-12	F Norton	95
15	(7)	0000-	HADADABBLE 122 (Fun Managers) Pat Mitchell 7-10	J Quinn	80
16	(14)	6-60	NATIVE SONG 25 (B) (Invicta Bloodstock) M Haynes 7-10	M Baird (5)	83
17	(5)	000-004	TARTAN EXPRESS 25 (Mrs E Nield) B Pearce 7-10	G Bardwell	–

Long handicap: Hadadabble 7-9, Native Song 7-4, Tartan Express 6-13

BETTING: 7-2 Nikita's Star, 9-2 Highlights, 6-1 Montecristo, 8-1 Asking For Kings, Minnisam, 12-1 Jump The Lights, Kissing Gate 14-1 others.

1995: IRON N GOLD 7-10 F Norton (25-1) S Dow 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

NIKITA'S STAR beat Thornton Estate 3l in 7-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f) with MONTECRISTO (9lb better off) 19l 6th. MONTECRISTO beat Lord Elangowan 5l in 4-runner apprentices claiming race at Lingfield (AW, 1m 4f) with TARTAN EXPRESS (11lb better off) 35l 4th. ASKING FOR KINGS 2½l 3rd of 16 to Megaron in conditions race at Cagnes-Sur-Mer (1m 2l, heavy) on penultimate start. JUMP THE LIGHTS 11l 8th of 11 to Dance Star in maiden at Nottingham (1m, firm). MINNISAM 17½l 4th of 10 to Latin Reign in maiden at Chepstow (1m, soft) on penultimate start. KISSING GATE beat Red Rusty neck in maiden at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd) on penultimate start.
Selection: NIKITA'S STAR

POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS

BRAMHAM MOOR (Wetherby): Members: 1, Cot Lane (R Walmsley, 6-4). Rest (Div I): 1, Stag Fight (S Walker, 2-1 fav). Rest (Div II): 1, Latheron (S Swiers, 5-4 fav). Ladies: 1, Workingforpeanuts (Miss S Jackson, Evens fav). Open: 1, Man's Best Friend (R Ford, 4-6 fav). Inter: 1, Quayside Cottage (N Wilson, 10-1). Open Mdn (Div I): 1, Highland Friend (A Rebori, 5-2 jt-fav). Open Mdn (Div II): 1, Wolvercastle (S Charlton, 5-2). Open Mdn (Div III): 1, Nutcase (T Stephenson, 2-1 fav).

CRAWLEY & HORSHAM (Parham): Members: 1, Drawitts Dancer (M Gorman, 5-2). Rest: 1, Barderos (P Hacking, 3-1). Confined: 1, Nethertara (P Hacking, 2-1). Open: 1, Little Martina (A Welsh, 5-2). Ladies: 1, Wellington Bay (Miss C Grissell, 20-1). Open Mdn: 1, Croft Court (P Hacking, 9-1).

CURRE (Howick): Members: 1, Gee Double You (B Tulloch, 11-8 fav). Rest (Div I): 1, Miss Isle (Miss C Thomas, 6-1). Rest (Div II): 1, Osceola (P Williams, 4-1). Confined: 1, Sun Of Chance (P Williams, 7-2). Open: 1, Welsh Legion (J Jukes, 2-5 fav); 2, Hugli; 3, Sandy Beau. 11 ran. Ladies: 1, Handsome Harvey (Miss P Jones, 2-5 fav). Inter: 1, Miss Millbrook (V Hughes, 4-1). Mdn (Div I): 1, Rosenthal (M Jones, 5-1). Mdn (Div II): 1, Bix (P Doorhof, 33-1). Mdn (Div III): 1, Dauphin Bleu (J Jukes, 6-1).

DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH'S (Friars Haugh): Rest: 1, Jigtime (M Bradburne, 10-1). PPOA: 1, Worthy Spark (P Craggs, 4-6 fav). Confined: 1, Sayin Nowt (A Parker, Evens fav). Ladies: 1, Rushing Burn (Miss N Snowden, 9-2). Open: 1, Howayman (A Parker, 5-2). Mdn (Div I): 1, In Demand (P Craggs, 3-1). Mdn (Div II): 1, Staneshiel (Miss D Calder, 8-1). Members: 1, Beau-Sun (Mrs P Marjoribanks, 6-1).

EASTON HARRIERS (Higham): Members: 1, Gilson's Cove (Miss L Rowe, 1-3 fav). Open Mdn (Div I): 1, Miss Cresta (S Morris, 4-1). Open Mdn (Div III): 1, Tomorrow's Times (B Pollock, 8-1). Open: 1, Laburnum (P Harding-Jones, 33-1). Ladies: 1, Wistino (Miss L Rowe, 6-1). Inter: 1, Lantern Pike (A Michael, 4-1). Confined: 1, On The Beer (S Sporborg, 7-4 fav).

LAMERTON (Kilworthy): Members: 1, Walkers Point (A Farrant, 1-4 fav). Ladies: 1, Khattaf (Miss J Cumings, 3-1). Confined: 1, Stormy Sunset (D Dennis, 7-2). Open: 1, Nearly Splendid (L Jefford, 8-1). Rest: 1, Tasmin Tyrant (L Jefford, 6-1). Inter: 1, Kaloore (P Scholfield, 4-6 fav). Mdn (Div I): 1, Our Teddis (G Penfold, 5-2 fav). Mdn (Div II): 1, Capstown Bay (P Scholfield, Evens fav).

SOUTH WOLD (Market Rasen). Members: 1, Hawaiian Goddess (Miss H Finns, 7-1). Confined: 1, Carly Brin (N Kent, 7-2). Ladies: 1, Cruising On (Miss E Guest, 5-2 jt-fav). Open: 1, Golden Moss (Capt S Robinson, 7-2). Rest: 1, Cass (P Picton-Warlow, 6-1). Mdn: 1, Ruff Song (N Jelley, 5-4 fav).

VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE (Siddington). Members: 1, Tekla (Miss D Olding, 8-1). Confined: 1, Granville Grill (J Deutsch, 4-5 fav). Open: 1, My Best Man (A Hill, 8-1). Ladies: 1, Sperrin View (Mrs K Sunderland, 9-4). Rest (Div I): 1, Copper Bank (F Hutsby, 12-1). Rest (Div II): 1, Sabre King (L Lay, 5-1). Mdn: 1, My Boy Barney (A Wintle, 6-4 fav).

WESTON & BANWELL (Cothelstone): Members: 1, Chita's Cone (R Treloggen, 2-9 fav). Open Mdn (Div I), 1, Churchtown Chance (R Treloggen, 4-7 fav). Open Mdn (Div II): 1, Ive Called Time (T Greed, 5-4 jt-fav). Confined: 1, The Pedlar (T Greed, 6-4). Open: 1, Sayyure (R Treloggen). Ladies: 1, Killelan Lad (Miss K Di Marte, 6-4 jt-fav). Rest: 1, Hensue (R Treloggen, 12-1).

WILTON: (Badbury Rings): Members: 1, Spitfire Jubilee (M Felton, 4-6 fav). Open Mdn (Div I): 1, Vital Legacy (Miss A Goschen, 20-1). Open Mdn (Div II): 1, Final Express (M Hoskins, 5-1). Open: 1, Vital Song (G Matthews, 4-5 fav). Ladies: 1, Spacial (Miss M Hill, 7-2). Rest: 1, Thegoose (P King, 5-1). Inter: 1, Panda Shandy (Miss A Goschen, 5-4). Open Mdn (Div III): 1, Langton Parmill (P Shaw, 9-2).

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MEAD COURT
(4.10 Fontwell Park)
NB: Reverand Thickness
(4.20 Folkestone)

SPECIALISTS

FOLKESTONE: Trainers: S Williams, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; J Dunlop, 12 from 42, 28.6%; J Pearce, 12 from 45, 26.7%. Jockeys: K Darley, 4 winners from 14 rides, 28.6%; M Rimmer, 7 from 26, 26.9%; J Tate, 6 from 27, 22.2%.

HEXHAM: Trainers: S Kettlewell, 4 winners from 10 runners, 40.0%; A Whillans, 4 from 11, 36.4%; L Lungo, 17 from 58, 29.3%; P Monteith, 14 from 48, 29.2%. Jockeys: N Leach, 3 from 11, 27.3%; T Reed, 25 from 97, 25.8%; P Niven, 20 from 80, 25.0%; L Wyer, 5 from 27, 18.5%.

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 Bolivar. 2.40 Silverfort Lad. 3.10 Cool Runner. 3.40 Fools Errand. 4.10 Melnik. 4.40 Royal Raven.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT, SOFT IN PLACES — SIS

2.10 CLIMPING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,406: 2m 2f) (10 runners)

1	5241	BOLIVAR 19 (S) R Akehurst 11-5	S Ryan (7)	[illegible]
2	P4	ANALOGUE 10 (B) P Mitchell 10-12	A P McCoy	–
3	6P	MATAMOROS 28 G Harwood 10-12	R Dunwoody	93
4	520	ROYAL RABBIT 26 C Nash 10-12	D Gallagher	87
5	60	SHEDANSAR 14 G L Moore 10-12	M A Fitzgerald	–
6	005	SNOWY PETREL 17 K Bailey 10-12	J Osborne	76
7	0	TOPANGA 61 J Bennett 10-12	L Harvey	–
8	P	EQUASION 28 G L Moore 10-7	G Upton	–
9	02	FARMER'S TERN 10 P Butler 10-7	T J Murphy (3)	88
10	0	SILVER BIRD 6 M Ryan 10-7	J Ryan	–

4-5 Bolivar, 5-1 Farmer's Tern, 6-1 Royal Rabbit, 8-1 Snowy Petrel, 10-1 Matamoros, 14-1 Silver Bird, 16-1 others.

2.40 ARUNDEL HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,043: 3m 2f 110yd) (7)

1	1410	SILVERFORT LAD 12 (B,CD,G,S) T Casey 7-12-0	M A Fitzgerald	90
2	4PPP	JURASSIC CLASSIC 28 (CD,S) Mrs L Richards 9-11-6	J Osborne	–
3	4304	RAINBOW CASTLE 20 (C,G) J Gifford 9-11-3	P Hide	86
4	3002	KEANO 21 (D,S) P Hobbs 7-10-11	A P McCoy	98
5	0522	ANDROS PRINCE 6 (G,S) Miss A Embiricos 11-10-10	J Ryan	[illegible]
6	140P	K C'S DANCER 25 (CD,F,S) R Dickin 11-10-8	Mr R Thornton (7)	88
7	05PP	MASTER COMEDY 35 (B,CD,F,S) Miss L Bower 12-10-0	L Harvey	77

5-2 Silverfort Lad, 7-2 Andros Prince, Rainbow Castle, 4-1 Keano, 10-1 Jurassic Classic, 14-1 K C's Dancer, 16-1 Master Comedy.

3.10 PAGHAM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,490: 2m 6f) (9)

1	1056	COOL RUNNER 25 (S) Mrs S Nock 6-11-9	G Bradley	[illegible]
2	00	CUMBERLAND YOUTH 28 Miss C Caroe 5-11-3	I Lawrence	–
3	DPP	FIRST CLASS 40 G Alford 6-11-3	A Tory	66
4	2/02	GENERAL PONGO 12 T George 7-11-3	J Railton	90
5	00	MACNAMARA 31 S Woodman 6-11-3	D Gallagher	–
6	0	ONE MORE MAN 63 J Gifford 5-11-3	P Hide	–
7	0P	TAMMUZ 24 K Bishop 5-11-3	R Greene	51
8	-5P5	SPRING GRASS 63 B Ryall 6-10-12	T Dascombe (5)	87
9	R/00	SURGICAL SPIRIT 61 J Poulton 6-10-12	M Munday (7)	87

4-5 Cool Runner, 4-1 General Pongo, 10-1 Spring Grass, One More Man, 12-1 Cumberland Youth, Macnamara, 14-1 others.

3.40 BOGNOR REGIS NOVICES CHASE

(£3,125: 2m 3f) (6)

1	04F1	CHURCHTOWN PORT 21 (S) P Butler 6-11-9	M A Fitzgerald	97
2	4134	FOOLS ERRAND 7 (BF,S) G Balding 6-11-9	B Clifford	[illegible]
3	21-3	PENNINE PASS 9 (C,F) D Williams 7-11-9	–	74
4	P/UF	FULL OF TRICKS 13 J Bridger 8-11-2	W McFarland	–
5	463P	STAGE PLAYER 18 (F,G) Miss C Caroe 10-11-2	I Lawrence	92
6	PP60	PRESIDENTIAL 25 (B) K Cunningham-Brown 5-10-8	R Arnold (7)	–

5-4 Fools Errand, 2-1 Churchtown Port, 5-1 Stage Player, 8-1 Pennine Pass, 14-1 Full Of Tricks, 20-1 Presidential.

4.10 CHICHESTER HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,951: 2m 2f) (6)

1	1-P1	MELNIK 35 (CD,S) G Harwood 5-12-0	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
2	4442	MARIUS 8 (S) J Gifford 6-11-0	P Hide	98
3	F058	REESHLOCH 19 (B,S) A Turnell 7-10-10	C Rae (7)	85
4	214F	MEAD COURT 9 (BF,S) N Chance 6-10-8	M A Fitzgerald	92
5	24-0	MR GENEAOLOGY 20SF (B,F,G,S) T McGovern 6-10-5	A P McCoy	–
6	1122	TOUCH SILVER 14 (S) H Manners 6-10-0	A Dowling (7)	96

7-4 Melnik, 2-1 Marius, 9-2 Mead Court, 7-1 Touch Silver, 8-1 Reeshloch, 16-1 Mr Geneaology.

4.40 BURY STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,354: 2m 2f) (16)

1	41	WISE KING 21 (G) J Old 8-11-11	G Upton	–
2	0	DR DAVE 23 K McAuliffe 5-11-4	C Llewellyn	–
3	0	MAZZINI 30 R Rowe 5-11-4	D O'Sullivan	–
4		MICKY BROWN Miss L Bower 5-11-4	D Gallagher	–
5	0	REVERSE THRUST 114 P Hedger 5-11-4	M Clinton (7)	–
6	0	ROYAL RAVEN 40 J Gifford 5-11-4	P Hide	–
7		SWAN STREET 38 C Mann 5-11-4	R Dunwoody	–
8	00	TYPHOON 23 M Campion 6-11-4	J Railton	–
9	05	CHINA ROSE 126 S Woodman 5-10-13	D Gallagher	–
10	0	GAYE FAME 111 K Bailey 5-10-13	J Osborne	–
11	0	GYPSY BLUES 171 Mrs J Wilkinson 6-10-13	Mrs J Wilkinson	–
12	0	LADY MUCKY DUCK 37 G Balding 6-10-13	B Fenton (3)	–
13	F0	ZEN OR 23 J Mullins 5-10-13	S Curran (3)	–
14		BARON ALLFOURS R Curtis 4-10-10	D Walsh (5)	–
15	0	NIGHT THYNE 23 M Roberts 4-10-10	B Powell	–
16	0	LOCH NA KEAL 39 C Nash 4-10-5	J R Kavanagh	–

6-4 Wise King, 6-1 Swan Street, 8-1 Gaye Fame, Royal Raven, 16-1 Mazzini, Dr Dave, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 9 winners from 23 runners, 39.1%; G Harwood, 13 from 37, 35.1%; P Hobbs, 17 from 56, 30.4%; D Williams, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Mrs L Richards, 5 from 23, 21.7%; J Gifford, 27 from 138, 19.6%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 12 winners from 49 rides, 24.5%; A P McCoy, 12 from 55, 21.8%; P Hide, 15 from 76, 19.7%; A Tory, 9 from 53, 17.0%; D O'Sullivan, 12 from 86, 14.0%; R Dunwoody, 16 from 123, 13.0%.

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

2.00 Bassenhally. 2.30 True Scot. 3.00 Go Silly. 3.30 Environmental Law. 4.00 Aljadeer. 4.30 Sansool. 5.00 Circus Line.

GOING: SOFT — SIS

2.00 WARDEN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,140: 2m) (11 runners)

1	02P1	UK HYGIENE 17 (D,F) M Hammond 6-11-5	P Niven
2	60	AITCHTEE-P 17 M Barnes 8-10-12	P Waggott
3	F226	BASSENHALLY 21 Mrs P Sly 6-10-12	R Marley
4	00	CASTLE RED 100 J Wade 5-10-12	K Jones
5	0	FENLOE RAMBLER 14 R Johnson 5-10-12	Mr P Johnson
6	6013	GENERATOR 9 (BF,G) T Easterby 5-10-12	L Wyer
7	0-00	HYA PRIM 19 N Chamberlain 5-10-12	B Storey
8	000/	POP IN THERE 1029 J Birkett 8-10-12	L O'Hara
9	2243	THE STITCHER 17 L Lungo 6-10-12	T Reed
10	0P	FLAMING HOPE 24 C Parker 6-10-7	D Parker (3)
11	0	HARLEY'S LADY 17 T Dyer 5-10-7	B Harding (3)

2-1 Bassenhally, 5-2 Generator, 3-1 Uk Hygiene, 5-1 The Stitcher, 12-1 others.

2.30 ELRINGTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,826: 2m 4f 110yd) (18)

1	5103	ALL ON 20 (F) J Hetherton 5-11-12	R Marley
2	4024	KNUCKLEBUSTER 7 R Fahey 6-11-9	L Wyer
3	4340	TASHREEF 124 (B,C,F,S) J Birkett 6-11-4	M Moloney
4	0-00	ANOTHER FOUNTAIN 24 J Dixon 10-11-1	B Storey
5	0010	SEDVICTA 16 (G) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-10	P Niven
6	003	MENSHAAR 24 L Lungo 4-10-9	T Reed
7	0030	ROBARA 18 S Leadbetter 6-10-8	N Leach
8	34F3	TRUE SCOT 18 P Cheesbrough 6-10-7	R Supple
9	PB6	MILLIEWELL 26 Mrs S Bramall 7-10-6	Mr K Whelan (5)
10	4-00	RAMPANT ROSIE 19 G Richards 8-10-3	B Harding (3)
11	5U3P	BIBBY BEAR 61 G Kelly 7-10-2	Mr P Murray (7)
12	000	HOWYOUDOING 37 M Barnes 6-10-0	D Parker (3)
13	0008	SOUPREME 40 Mrs M Reveley 4-10-0	G Cahill (5)
14	0-00	NAWTINOOKEY 44 T Dyer 6-10-0	J Callaghan
15	0P/5	PRECIOUS HENRY 9 S Kettlewell 7-10-0	S Ponting (7)
16	0060	RASCALLY 18 Miss L Siddall 6-10-0	A Thornton
17	-400	KINGS MINSTRAL 20 D Lamb 6-10-0	A Manners (7)
18	0PP	KRALINGEN 41 N Chamberlain 4-10-0	Miss C Metcalfe (7)

4-1 True Scot, 5-1 All On, Knucklebuster, 6-1 Tashreef, 8-1 Rampant Rosie 10-1 Milliewell, Sedvicta, 12-1 Menshaar, Robara, 14-1 others.

3.00 ANICK AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,658: 3m 1f) (20)

1	25-6	ISLAND FOREST 277 (G) Mrs A Naughton 10-12-0	M Swinburn (7)
2	P/3P	HEAVENLY CITIZEN 20 (D,F,G,S) J Gledson 8-11-13	T Scott (7)
3	2140	GO SILLY 7 (V,G,S) B Ellison 10-11-12	C Bonner (3)
4	PPOP	ALBERT BLAKE 6 (V,G,S) T Kersey 9-11-11	R Thomas (7)
5	0600	RUSTINO 72 (G,S) S Clark 10-11-11	Miss R Clark (7)
6	2P35	LUPY MINSTREL 18 (F,G,S) C Parker 11-11-10	A Parker (7)
7	330U	TUDOR FELLOW 7 J Wade 7-11-9	S Swiers
8	5-0P	PALM HOUSE 40 (B,F,G,S) J Hellens 11-11-2	N Wilson (5)
9	55-1	MIAMI BEAR 30P (G,S) R Fahey 10-11-2	M Haigh (7)
10	3022	SAND KING 30 (V,F) Miss L Russell 10-11-1	Miss P Robson (7)
11	PP-5	ZAMIL 68 (G,S) K Burke 11-11-0	J Culloty (5)
12	/F-P	SERPHIL 19 (F,S) L Lungo 8-10-10	P Johnson (5)
13	3840	NORTH PRIDE 61 (F,S) M Barnes 11-10-10	R Hale (5)
14	06-P	EBRO 35 (B,D,G,S) V Thompson 10-10-10	M Thompson (3)
15	0263	QUIXALL CROSSETT 9 E Caine 11-10-7	R Barton (7)
16	0R36	GATHERING TIME 12 (G,S) Mrs S Smith 10-10-7	P Murray (7)
17	6253	DOXFORD HUT 18 (F) W McKeown 12-10-5	K Whelan (5)
18	-FPP	DESPERATE DAYS 68 F Kirby 7-10-4	Miss J Wormall (7)
19	PR-6	MONT MIRAIL 24 (G) A Whillans 10-10-1	M H Naughton (7)
20	FPP0	BARON TWO SHOES 18 (S) G Kelly 10-10-1	W Burnell (7)

5-1 Miami Bear, 6-1 Quixall Crossett, Sand King, 7-1 Go Silly, 8-1 others

3.30 LOWGATE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,490: 2m) (12)

1	3453	ISSYIN 7 (B,G,S) M W Easterby 9-12-0	B Harding
2	2-31	RALLEGIO 7 (D,S) P Monteith 7-11-8 (7ex)	G Cahill
3	P1-0	CASUAL PASS 3 (CD,F,G,S) L Lungo 13-11-5	I Jardine (7)
4	-P46	MERRY MERMAID 17 (D,S) B Mactaggart 6-11-4	S Melrose (5)
5	2146	CURRENT SPEECH 6 (B,D,BF,S) T Easterby 5-11-4	A Roche
6	-031	JOMOVE 20 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4	C McCormack (5)
7	10-P	GALAXY RAIN 7 (D,S) J Haynes 5-11-1	D Parker
8	63-0	RED BEACON 19 J Goulding 9-10-13	B Grattan (3)
9	0503	AIDE MEMOIRE 19 (S) Mrs B Broad 7-10-12	A Manners (5)
10	0042	SUPERHOO 18 (D,S) R Craggs 5-10-12	D Ryan (5)
11	0044	ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 9 W McKeown 5-10-8	F Leahy
12	0050	PIER THIRTY NINE 20 (D,F,G,S) J Parkes 10-10-0	R McCarthy (5)

4-1 Jomove, 5-1 Superhoo, 6-1 Issyin, Rallegio, 7-1 Red Beacon, 8-1 Current Speech, Aide Memoire, 10-1 Environmental Law, 12-1 others

4.00 SHIRE NOVICES CHASE

(£3,371: 2m 110yd) (16)

1	0351	ALJADEER 17 (B,F,G) M W Easterby 7-11-10	A Thornton
2	-60P	ANOTHER MEADOW 6 J Dixon 8-11-3	B Storey
3	-6F4	BROUGHPARK AZALEA 18 J Birkett 7-11-3	L O'Hara
4	PFP-	CARDINAL SINNER 331 J Wade 7-11-3	K Jones
5	2P34	CORSTON RACER 6 (S) Mrs S Bradburne 8-11-3	T Reed
6	-FUP	DERWENT LAD 37 M Barnes 7-11-3	P Waggott
7	P560	EXCISE MAN 40 (G) F Walton 8-11-3	Mr A Robson
8	-346	MONOKRATIC 17 (S) Mrs S Bramall 7-11-3	Mr K Whelan (5)
9	5204	PREMIER FIRST 20 J Hellens 7-11-3	M Foster
10	2/FF	SASKIA'S HERO 23 (G,S) J Bottomley 9-11-3	D Byrne
11	P/23	SAVOY 51 (G) G Richards 9-11-3	P Carberry
12	1-00	SIRERIC 72 (S) S Bell 6-11-3	N Smith
13	064	TIMES LEADER 19 P Calver 7-11-3	L Wyer
14	4PPP	CONSTANT AMUSEMENT 9 E Caine 8-10-12	Mr R Barton (7)
15	-5P2	GROUSE-N-HEATHER 3 P Monteith 7-10-12	G Cahill (5)
16	0-0P	KIRTLE SUPERSTAR 30 L Lungo 7-10-12	T Reed

11-8 Aljadeer, 5-2 Savoy, 7-1 Corston Racer, 10-1 Monokratic, 12-1 Premier First, 14-1 Grouse-N-Heather, Saskia's Hero, Sireric, 16-1 others

4.30 ASHINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,899: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

1	4401	TRUMP 26 (D,G,S) C Parker 7-12-0	D Parker (3)
2	2323	ABBOT OF FURNESS 31 (D,S) G Richards 12-11-7	B Harding (3)
3	-203	DOCKMASTER 9 (S) Miss M Milligan 5-10-12	L Wyer
4	544P	CARNETTO 7 (D,G,S) R Brewis 9-10-11	A S Smith
5	6055	TWIN FALLS 26 (G) G Moore 5-10-9	J Callaghan
6	2032	SANSOOL 7 (B,C,D,S) A Whillans 10-10-9	B Storey
7	41/0	CARABALI DANCER 17 (CD,G,S) J Bottomley 8-10-4	R Supple
8	00U0	NICHOLAS PLANT 8 (CD,S) J Goldie 7-10-2	G Cahill (5)
9	4613	EXEMPLAR 12 (D,BF,F,G) Mrs S Smith 8-10-0	Mr P Murray (7)
10	P0P6	MR OPTIMISTIC 20 (B,D,G,S) F Murtagh 9-10-0	F Leahy (5)

11-4 Dockmaster, 3-1 Trump, 9-2 Sansool, 5-1 Abbot Of Furness, 7-1 Carabali Dancer, 8-1 Exemplar, 10-1 Twin Falls, 25-1 others

5.00 WARDEN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,119: 2m) (11)

1	5410	CIRCUS LINE 26 (D,BF,S) M W Easterby 5-11-5	A Thornton
2	1235	SALVO 31 (CD,G) Mrs M Stirk 5-11-5	Mr S Swiers
3	/2P-	BRAVE AND TENDER 401 J Johnson 7-10-12	P Carberry
4	40	CORBLEU 62 S Bell 6-10-12	N Smith
5	0-P0	ERNEST ARAGORN 10 Mrs S Lamyman 7-10-12	A S Smith
6	P/P-	MR FLUORINE 486 T Cuthbert 7-10-12	Carol Cuthbert
7	0P-P	UNCLE BENJI 21 J Parkes 7-10-12	R McCarthy (7)
8	-056	APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 96 J Boulding 8-10-7	R Supple
9	00	BILL'S PRIDE 9 P Monteith 5-10-7	G Cahill (5)
10	40-0	COQUET GOLD 9 F Walton 5-10-7	B Storey
11	000P	SHEER GIFT 14 J Barkett 7-10-7	M Moloney

5-4 Circus Line, 3-1 Brave And Tender, Salvo, 10-1 Apollo's Daughter, 16-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Folkestone: 4.50 Autobabble, Native Song. Fontwell Park: 2.10 Analogue. Hexham: 3.00 Albert Blake, Go Silly. 4.30 Mr Optimistic.

England upstaged in curtain-raiser

By Sydney Friskin

THE England men's hockey team produced a performance worthy of the occasion at Milton Keynes yesterday as the new National Stadium was officially opened. Ultimately, however, they lost 4-3 to India after a dramatic finish.

India, who scored three goals in the first half, were later swept aside by an England tidal wave as the home side surged forward in concerted action inspired by the centre half, Kalbir Takhir, who received the man-of-the-match award.

Before the interval, India were a dynamic side. They played with such verve that England could do little in reply, despite making a promising start themselves. Giles was not even permitted a shot from their first short corner.

India suddenly struck with telling force with a goal in the eighth minute by the outside right, Mukesh Kumar, on the rebound after Luckes had saved from the centre forward, Dajnraj Pillay. England fell further behind in the 21st minute when the unmarked inside left, Sanjeev Kumar, easily outwitted Luckes. Within a minute Pillay forced the ball over the line from a scramble and England's position seemed irretrievable.

The picture changed dramatically after the resumption. The pressure was at the India end, with the visitors' defence tending to panic under pressure. Shaw, making his hundredth appearance for England, began to make inroads into Indian territory.

The England attack began to cover ground at high speed and in the 42nd minute the lead was reduced by Mayer, a substitute forward, who scored near the far post after Takher had played the ball in from the left.

England redoubled their effort and earned a penalty stroke when Pearn was obstructed by the full back, Aldrin, in the 53rd minute. Nick Thompson converted and England were back in the match. Four minutes later Mayer and Thompson combined well to set up a chance from which Sharpe levelled the score.

With nine minutes left, however, Dajnraj, running into an open space, flicked the ball to Mukesh Kumar who scored brilliantly in the corner of the net. India's position was still by no means secure and they were visibly relieved when the end came.

In fact, the Indian goal had a narrow escape three minutes before the hooter was sounded. The centre by Sharpe from the left found its way to Mayer on the right of the circle but as he was positioning himself for a shot he was dispossessed by the India left-half, Ramandeep Singh.

David Whittle, the England manager, was not dismayed. "We had some young contenders for places in the Olympic squad and we learned a lot," he said.

ENGLAND: D Luckes (East Grinstead), J Wyatt (Reading), J Halls (Old Loughtonians), G Fordham (Hounslow), Kalbir Takher (Cannock), Soma Singh (Southgate), B Sharpe (Cannock), J Shaw (Southgate, captain), D Hall (Guildford), N Thompson (Old Loughtonians), M Pearn (Reading). Substitutes used: S Mason (Reading), C Mayer (Cannock), H Hoskin (Reading).

INDIA: A Subbaiah, Pargat Singh (captain), Anil Aldrin, Harpreet Singh, Riaz Nabi, Ramandeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Baljit Saini, Dhanraj Pillay, Sanjeev Kumar, G Ferreira. Subs used: Baljit Dhillon, Sandeep Somesh.

Umpires: J Gorssen and P Elders (Holland).

Wood, left, Logan and Adrain, right, celebrate Scotland's triples gold medal

Wood drives Scots to triples triumph

From David Rhys Jones in Adelaide

FIFTY-SEVEN was a good age to be at the Lockleys Bowls Centre here yesterday, when two of the sport's elder statesmen, Willie Wood and Sammy Allen, helped Scotland and Ireland to the world outdoor triples and pairs titles respectively.

Wood, who has now collected 12 medals from six world championships since his first appearance in Johannesburg in 1976, was outstanding in Scotland's triples team, tidying up effectively after his lead, Kenny Logan, and calling on his vast experience to get the best out of his skip, George Adrain.

Scotland proceeded to trounce the New Zealand team of Andrew Curtain, David File and Peter Belliss 26-5 in the final, allowing New Zealand to score only in singles, and the victory gave Wood special pleasure, avenging his defeat by Belliss in the 1984 final in Aberdeen.

Adrain has proud memories of Aberdeen, having won a gold medal there — for the United States. In those days, the host country provided a bank of substitutes, and the Ayrshire man, called in to replace Jimmy Candelet, who broke his leg, helped Skippy Arculli to win the pairs title. Now, 12 years later, he has struck gold for Scotland.

Ireland's win over Scotland, the holders, in the pairs was a surprise, but well deserved. Jerome Henry, a 22-year-old student from Portrush, outplayed Richard Corsie at lead, and Allen, 35 years his senior, played a succession of magical conversion shots that bewildered Alex Marshall.

The Scots, who were widely tipped to retain their title, led 11-6 after nine ends, but dropped a count of four when Allen trailed the jack to the back of the rink, and, although there was little in it, Ireland always seemed in charge thereafter.

Allen, appearing in his fourth world championships, has previously won the triples at Aberdeen in 1984 and the fours in Auckland in 1988. Today he launches his bid for the singles title, but laughed self-deprecatingly when it was suggested that a full set was in prospect, dismissing the notion with a simple "no chance".

France happy to limit margin

England	2
France	0

By Alix Ramsay

THE atmosphere was less than electric, the applause was canned and the performance was distinctly subdued as the England women's team beat France 2-0 in the opening match at Milton Keynes.

The organisers were determined to create an air of enthusiasm and jollity and there were regular appeals over the Tannoy for the crowd to cheer and shout. When the crowd would not join in, the organisers got their own back by playing taped applause. There was little happening on the pitch to get excited about.

The French knew their place from the outset. This was England's party to celebrate their new home and they were supposed to win. The French responded by seldom daring to venture out of their own half and, on the odd occasion they did find themselves in foreign territory, they looked suitably lost and retreated to home ground as soon as possible.

England, after scoring twice in the first 18 minutes, proceeded to make life difficult for themselves. The subsequent shooting was woefully inaccurate. Kathryn James, who has scored 11 times for Trojans in the national league this season, was more often than not in the right place but could not hit the target. The one time she did, she was offside. It was that sort of day.

Jane Smith's pass enabled Sally Gibson to open the scoring from point-blank range with a quarter of an hour gone. Three minutes later, Jackie Crook coverted a penalty stroke after another flurry of activity and an illegal stop in front of the French goal.

In the second half, France closed England down by sheer weight of numbers behind the ball as stalemate ensued.

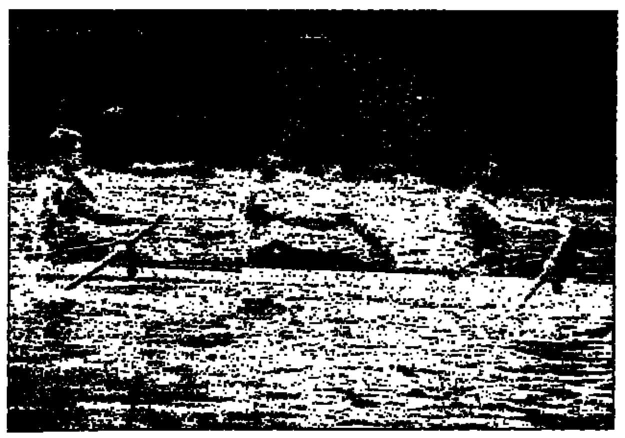
With no Great Britain players available to her and having had little time for preparation for the match, the England coach, Maggie Souyave, knew it had not been a classic encounter but had not expected much more.

"We won, which is the main thing," she said. "I am disappointed with our finishing but the way the French played was disappointing too."

ENGLAND: C Reid (Hightown), K Bowden (Leicester), S Chandler (Slough), J Crook (Hightown), J Empson (Canterbury), S Gibson (Trojans), K James (Trojans), L Marsden (Clifton), J Smith (Ipswich), S Wright (Slough), L Youngs (Ipswich). Substitutes: M Clewlow (Canterbury), F Greenham (Loughborough Students), S Blanks (Leicester).

FRANCE: S Taillant, L Peyrelongue, V Delloye, H Esnus, M Lazennec, S Renoue, B Picard, N Ages, L Doutriaux, A Noel, S Lerossec. Substitutes: V Calagrel, C Vives, J Clement.

Umpires: A Larios and L Santiago (Spain).



The Cambridge bow three look smooth and controlled on the Tideway on Saturday. Photograph: André Camara

Blue boats tune up for Tideway showdown

By Mike Rosewell

BOTH Oxford and Cambridge emerged with wins in private fixtures on the Tideway on Saturday as the countdown to the University Boat Race, on April 6, continued.

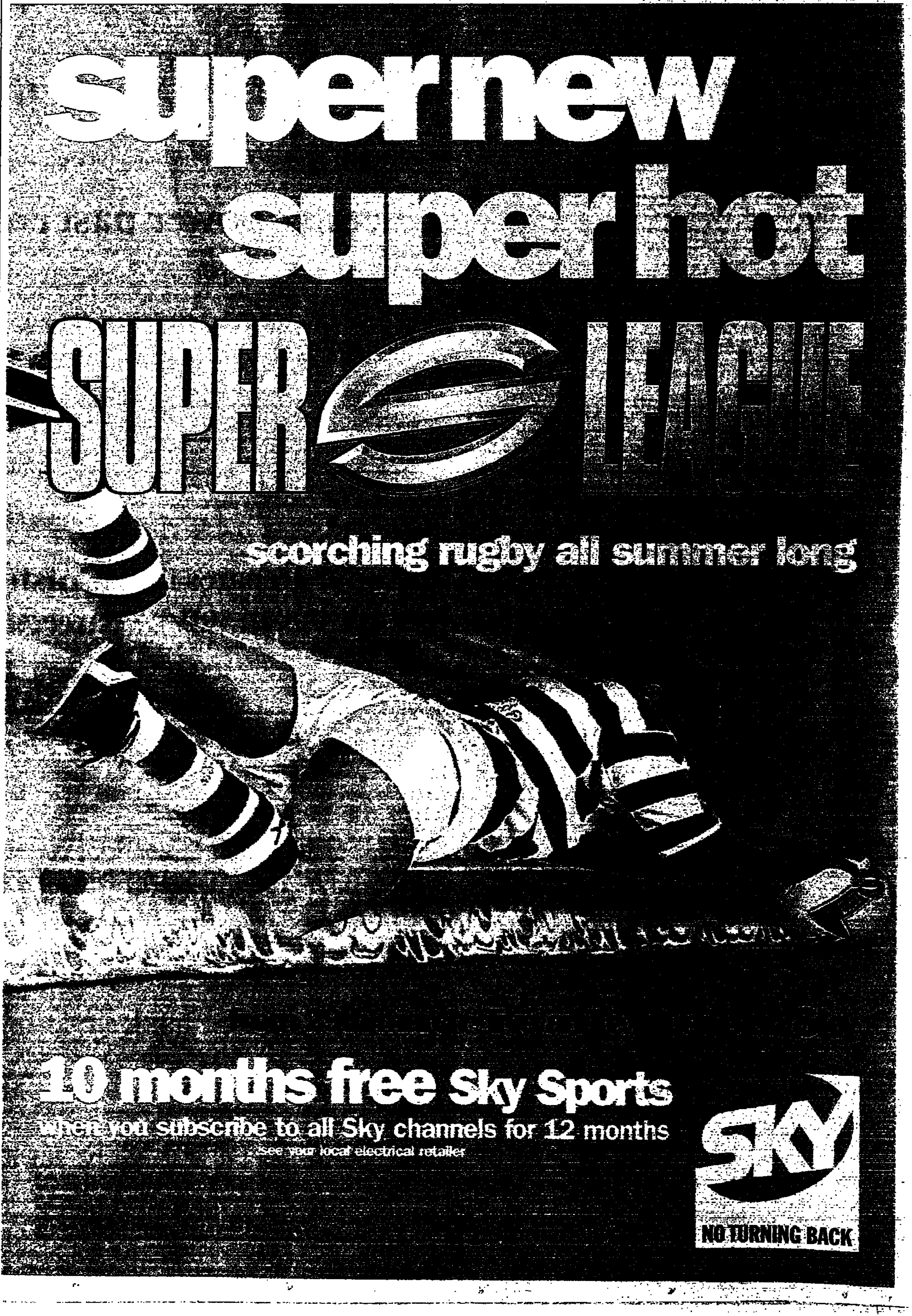
Oxford, bronzed after ten days' training in Spain, produced three three-minute rows and a Putney to Hammersmith piece against a Molesey crew with seven internationals on board. Cambridge, without James Ball, their regular stroke, because of an ear infection, undertook two half-course rows opposed by Nottingham County, a mixture of lightweight and heavyweight internationals.

Oxford edged the three-minute confrontations before winning the bridge-to-bridge contest by half a length, leading off the start on Surrey but never breaking clear.

In contrast, Cambridge, also on Surrey, rowed right away from a lacklustre Nottingham in their initial Putney to Chiswick Steps race, looking controlled and unruffled throughout, to win by eight seconds. The second row, from Chiswick Eyot to the finish, was a different matter as Nottingham came to life. Cambridge were again faster away, but the County kept contact and, on Middlesex and with only a half-length deficit at Barnes Bridge, looked likely to come through. However, Cambridge held them off and won by just under a length.

Robin Williams, the Cambridge coach, was happy with his crew's "guts and determination", but seeks "a bit more polishing". Oxford, clearly better than last year, will be tested further on the Tideway this week with contests against London University and Leander crews.

LACOSTE



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NO TURNING BACK

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Full back returns in style

Callard conducts Bath's march at the double

Bath	19
Gloucester	10

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FOR the third time in eight years Bath will meet Leicester in the final of the Pilkington Cup; proof — if proof were needed — of the degree to which these two clubs continue to dominate English rugby. Neutral observers, and perhaps the sponsors, may occasionally hope for change but until the rest can meet the demanding standards set by this pair they will wish in vain.

Since both are setting the pace in the Courage Clubs Championship, too, the prospect of a double-clinching victory on May 4 at Twickenham remains a tantalising prospect, though far more likely for Bath. They have a two-point advantage in the league and that enviable record of never having lost a Pilkington Cup final; moreover, they now have a clear month in which to hone the playing style that proved so attractive before Christmas, before the disruptions of the international season.

"We haven't played together for so long and we find it difficult," John Hall, their director of rugby, said. Their multi-layered game cannot prosper without constant match practice, as the semifinal at the Recreation Ground on Saturday proved. Indeed, ambition sometimes outran common sense as Bath's backs tried to find space well behind the gain-line against a Gloucester team that may lack finesse but loses nothing in commitment.

Thankfully, for Bath, they had Jonathan Callard. Five successive kicks at goal out of five, yet what will be his reward? He was dropped for the quarter-final against Bristol, when Mike Catt was preferred in his England position of full back; against Gloucester, Catt reverted to stand-off half because of Richard Butland's rib injury. Butland should be fit for the league game on Saturday with Bristol.

"I hope I was able to drop a few hints but selection is out of my hands," Callard said. What Gloucester would have given for such dependability. At crucial moments Mark Mapletoft's place-kicking let him down and, instead of pressing Bath ever closer during the second half, they remained at arm's length.

It was a game too far for Mapletoft. Out of rugby for a year after having his knee reconstructed, he had played only twice before the semifinal. Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, took a calculated gamble and selected him at full back but Mapletoft clearly lacked match sharpness.

Yet at least he is back in the swing now, and so is his club. Gloucester have three under-21 internationals in key positions — hooker, lock and scrum half — and each of them came through this trial of strength in credit. Once they have shrugged off the disappointment of defeat, they will take heart from running the holders so close and their drive away from the bottom of the first division should be all the stronger, even though they must clear awkward hurdles at Wasps, Harlequins and Leicester.

Callard: dependable

"When Bath scored their try and went 19-3 up, many teams might have buckled but in the end Gloucester finished stronger," Hall said. Agreed, they were playing stronger but finishing is what Gloucester find difficult: they lack pace and variety behind the scrum and the elevation of Mike Peters to the wing did not answer the problem.

Yet it was a coming-of-age for a remoulded team that had to contend not only with Bath's 13 internationals but the disapproval of Ed Morrison, the referee, for their methods of winning the ball at ruck and maul. Bath's *modus operandi* is to commit more players than is now the norm in the loose and Gloucester found it hard to counter, until stung into life by Adedayo Adebayo's try 32 seconds after the interval.

If Bath have a selection problem at full back, they will have another on the wing for the final. They have Jon Sleightholme, one of the England successes this season, they have Simon Geoghegan, of Ireland, and they have Adebayo, who has taken over Tony Swift's try-poaching mantle. The England A player, who will be required for the Hong Kong Sevens next weekend, scored significant tries in the two league meetings with Leicester this season and here was another. From an unpromising position, his strength and speed took him on a 50-metre dash through Peters and Mapletoft.

Gloucester then dispatched their first-half blues. They drove into Bath, squeezed out a penalty and Scott Benton bundled his way over. Benton later left the field with a recurrence of a strained shoulder but he has already impressed observers at Kingsholm, as has Phil Greening, who had the satisfaction of a heel against the head even when Bath had done considerable damage at set scrums.

Admittedly, the veteran Graham Dawe had gone by then. He received a kick on the shoulder-blade in the first minute that left him in considerable discomfort. He had to watch as Gloucester, dominating the lineout, drove time and again into the Bath 22. But within five minutes Mapletoft, with two comparatively straightforward penalty attempts, and Martyn Kimber, with a dropped goal, missed the posts and the gap remained nine points.

"Even if we had scored, Bath are the sort of side who always respond by raising their game," Hill said. Maybe so, but then again Hill may have too much inside information on his former club. Now, though, he has important information on his new one: they can live with the best in England again and that thought will strengthen them through the vital weeks ahead.

SCORERS: Bath: Try: Adebayo Conversion: Callard Penalty goals: Callard (4). Gloucester: Try: Benton Conversion: Mapletoft. Dropped goal: Kimber.

BATH: J Callard; J Sleightholme, P de Glanville, J Guscott, A Adebayo; M Catt, A Nicol; D Hilton, G Dawe, V Ubogu, S Ojomoh, M Haag, N Redman, A Robinson, B Clarke Dawe replaced by N McCarthy (40min)

GLOUCESTER: M Mapletoft; M Peters, D Caskie, M Roberts, M Lloyd; M Kimber, S Benton; A Windo, P Greening, A Deacon, P Glanville, R Fidler, D Sims, I Smith, C Raymond. Benton replaced by B Fenley (67min). Deacon temporarily replaced by A Powles (11-13min).

Referee: E Morrison.

Johnson, the Leicester lock, bursts through the last line of London Irish defence on his way to scoring a try. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Leicester power past enterprising Irish

London Irish	21
Leicester	46

By Bryan Stiles

LEICESTER took the spoils in this exhilarating Pilkington Cup semi-final, but London Irish revelled in the glory — and if they had stuck to their game plan they might even have become the team to challenge Bath in the final in May. At least, that is what the romantics thought.

The Irish had been wonderfully enterprising in the opening half and had trailed Leicester by only one point — 22-21 — at the interval.

They had clearly rattled the Courage League champions, who had not bargained for the abrasiveness of the second division team's forwards or the talent of their backs.

Even Tony Russ, the Leicester director of rugby, was anxious as Corcoran, the prolific points-scorer, lined up penalty attempts for the Irish early in the second half.

"The Irish played brilliantly and if Corcoran had landed some more of his kicks we would have been playing catch-up rugby and anything could have happened," Russ said.

Luckily for Leicester, Corcoran missed with two attempts at goal in the opening minutes of the second half and presented Leicester with possession — just the scenario that Clive Woodward, the Irish coach, had been working to avoid when preparing the team for the game.

He leapt from his bench, urging Halpin, the captain, to keep his players running with the ball, the tactic that had so upset Leicester during the first half.

The problem for Halpin was that he had been seduced by the memory of how Corcoran had won numerous matches with inspirational goalkicking. He felt it was worth the gamble, but he was wrong.

Halpin had, in Henderson, an outstanding centre who is destined to make the Ireland team. He also had Humphreys, the new Ireland stand-off half, who was playing his first competitive game for London Irish and who dovetailed in smoothly. The couple thrived on the possession which went their way in the first half, each scoring a splendid try.

Halpin is an enterprising captain, nonetheless. At one point it looked as if he was going to leave the match when he realised the public-address announcer was calling for his car to be moved because it was causing an obstruction. A club official moved it. The Irish can invariably be relied upon to produce the unexpected.

They were caught cold when Underwood strode over for a try in the third minute but they kept running the ball back at Leicester, creating gaps that first division teams had found well-nigh impossible to achieve against a usually mean defence.

Richards, inevitably, imposed his grip on the game after the interval and the Irish did not score another point. By the 55th minute they had gone close and were attacking fiercely when Underwood swept out of his own 22 to set up a try for Delaney. That marked the end for the Irish as Leicester cranked up the try-scoring.

The Irish, who welcome Gabriel Fulcher, the Ireland lock, this week, must now rejoin the battle to see who will be promoted to the first division with Northampton.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: Humphreys, Henderson. Conversion: Corcoran Penalty goals: Corcoran (3). Leicester: Tries: Underwood, Wells, Johnson, Delaney, Harris, Poole. Conversions: Liley (5). Dropped goal: Harris. Penalty goal: Liley.

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, M Corcoran, P Flood, R Henderson, J Bishop, D Humphreys, T Ewington; L Mooney, R Kellam, G Halpin, A Dougan, A Meadows, C Hall, C Bird, B Walsh. Henderson replaced by S Burns (74min); Dougan replaced by P Irons (75); Ewington replaced by N Briers (79)

LEICESTER: J Liley; S Hackney, R Robinson, P Delaney, R Underwood, J Harris, A Kardooni, G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, D Richards.

Referee: G Gadjovich (Canada)

Full results and league tables ..... Page 36

Cup combat finds Cardiff painfully predictable

Llanelli	11
Cardiff	10

By Gerald Davies

A KIND of intoxication infuses Llanelli when they sip a draught from the Swalec Cup. They thrive on it. They won the competition in four of its first five years, and five times since — as well as making three losing appearances in finals. A semi-final is an annual event.

Llanelli have furthermore not lost at home in the cup in the past ten years, and were in no mood to let that record slip in their quarter-final on Saturday. Like a dog with a bone, they did not lose their grip.

A stumbling block in this upwardly-mobile progress in the past, however, has been Cardiff. Of their seven confrontations, Cardiff had won five. The visiting team, with their well-drilled and wrenching pack, were expected to advance this statistic.

In what is generally described as "cup rugby" — dour, muscular, forward-orientated and with imagination for nothing more — Cardiff were expected to be in their element. And, so for the most part, it seemed.

It is a fine thing to dominate possession, as Cardiff mostly did. This matters. Yet what matters more is what you do with the ball when it comes. The Cardiff answer seemed to be not very much. They are mechanically predictable. Jonathan Humphreys, their captain, was moved to express his exasperation at the lack of vision and purpose in his team's performance.

Llanelli had begun with such pace and variety that they bemused their opponents and created try-scoring chances for Proctor, Ieuan Evans and John in the first ten minutes. This was at a time when they won a share of possession at the lineout.

This breathtaking start might have lasted a while longer but for the emergence of Derwyn Jones and Wakeford, for Cardiff, who thereafter ruled the lineout. There was plenty of excitement in the slog and some moments to inspire.

Ieuan Evans: neat try

Llanelli tried to break away from Cardiff's grip but found they could not. Predictably, Cardiff slowed down the pace and, equally predictably, since they hardly ventured much, the only scores by half-time were a penalty each from Jonathan Davies and Justin Thomas, who had missed four other opportunities.

In the second minute after the interval, the home team broke the shackles. Wintle and Boobyer combined cleverly in midfield. The ubiquitous Gwyn Jones carried the move on, the ball was quickly served to Boobyer and his kick found no-man's-land in front of Jones, the full back, and behind Walker, the wing. Ieuan Evans ran between the two to pick up and score.

That was the last of the bright, swift thinking for a while. When push came to shove, then Cardiff pushed some more. They were in command. This they knew to be their strength. What they understood less was that it was to lead to their downfall.

They did succeed when Jones won the lineout and the rest of the pack heaved Andrew Lewis over for a try that Jonathan Davies converted.

Encamped on the Llanelli line, time and again they tried to push their way over. The ball was forever held at Taylor's feet. Eventually, Llanelli stole it, kicked the ball to the right and then to the left and were soon on Cardiff's 22-metre line.

Winning only their third lineout of the half, Griffiths raced on with memories of his rugby league days in St Helens in mind. He ran straight. Tacklers fell to right and left and he almost reached the line. Cardiff were offside. Thomas kicked the penalty.

When Cardiff threatened once more, it was Griffiths who tore the heart out of their efforts by running deep from his own half. Taking a leaf out of Cardiff's book, Llanelli saw out the afternoon by camping on the visiting team's line and suffocating them to defeat.

SCORERS: Llanelli: Try: I Evans Penalty goals: J Thomas (2). Cardiff: Try: A Lewis Conversion: J Davies. Penalty goal: J Davies

LLANELLI: J Thomas; I Evans, N Boobyer, M Wintle, W Proctor; J Griffiths, R Moon; R Evans, R McBryde, S John, M Perego, P Davies, P Jones, G Jones, C Wyatt

CARDIFF: J Jones; N Walker, M Hall, S John, S Hill; J Davies, A Moore; A Lewis, J Humphreys L Mustoe, V Davies, J Wakeford, D Jones, E Lewis, H Taylor.

Referee: D R Davies (Llanbradach)

Dallaglio prepares to lead European sortie

Wasps	25
Sale	16

By Nicolas Andrews

IT HAS not been easy for any English rugby union club this season, but few have had it as hard as Wasps. Shorn of four internationals, thrown into confusion by the game's stuttering progress towards professionalism, hampered by the weather, long-term injuries and representative calls at crucial times, it has been a season they might have wished to forget.

Yet now they stand on the verge of European qualification — assuming, that is, that the Rugby Football Union does get round to confirming that the top four Courage League first division clubs will represent England in the European Cup next season. Sale would beg to differ, and they still lead Wasps on points difference, but, with games at Bath, Leicester and Harlequins ahead of them, this defeat at Sudbury was probably crucial.

"The disruption has been immense," Rob Smith, the Wasps coach, said. "It has been very difficult. In November, most people put us down for relegation." The best thing to have happened to Wasps is undoubtedly the emergence of their new captain. "Lawrence Dallaglio has done a major job," Smith said. "He is a very big man. I can't say how big his contribution has been."

The No 7 was sorely missed in the defeat by Harlequins two weeks ago but he was back, leading from the front, on Saturday, covering the pitch and putting in a succession of crucial tackles. However, it was White, his back-row partner, who charged down Paul Turner's attempted clearance to give the home side a 10-6 interval lead that they barely deserved. Yet, as the game wore on, so Wasps's confidence grew and Sale looked increasingly like a side that had played only two league games since Christmas.

They were enterprising enough, tapping penalties, running from deep and taking quick lineouts, but, as Dallaglio observed, "they never really looked like scoring a try".

Saverimutto did scamper over near the posts with nine minutes left, after the referee had awarded Sale a succession of penalties for persistent offside, but, by then, Wasps were in command, having scored two second-half tries. Gregory fed Greenstock for the first after Dunston and Dallaglio, prompted by Gomarsall, had led a forward surge from halfway, and Scrase scooped up a wayward pass to score in the right-hand corner after an initial break by Hopley.

"We have been used to being at the top of English rugby," Dallaglio said, "and we want to pit ourselves against the best in Europe." With two games against West Hartlepool to come, that wish should be granted.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: White, Greenstock, Scrase Conversions: Gregory (2) Penalty goals: Gregory (2). Sale: Try: Saverimutto. Conversion: Liley Penalty goals: Liley (3)

WASPS: J Ufton; L Scrase, N Greenstock, D Hopley, S Roiser; G Gregory, A Gomarsall; D Molloy, K Dunn, I Dunston, M White, A Ozugbo, R Kinsey, L Dallaglio, P Scrivener.

SALE: J Mallinder; R Liley, J Baxendell, G Higginbotham, C Yates; P Turner, C Saverimutto; P Smith, S Diamond, A Yates, P Hewitt, J Fowler, D Baldwin, N Ashurst, C Vyvyan.

Referee: C White (Gloucester).

Harlequins rewrote the Courage Clubs Championship record book when they beat West Hartlepool 91-21 at Brierton Lane on Saturday, overhauling Bath's previous mark of 76 against Bedford. Paul Challinor, the Harlequins stand-off half, scored 26 points, including one of 14 tries.

Colston's schooled for success at Twickenham

By Ivo Tennant

FOR the second successive year, Colston's Collegiate School, in Bristol, has won the national under-18 schools rugby cup. The first XV, coached by Andy Robinson, the England flanker, has not been defeated for two years, and that includes a tour of South Africa. The school's philanthropist founder, Thomas Colston, started something, for sure.

Before a crowd of some 12,000 at Twickenham on Saturday, Colston's defeated Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, which, despite its rugby-playing traditions, takes a very different view on awarding sports scholarships. A difference in boys' size as well as standards was evident in the final, as a score of 20-0 would suggest.

No longer, clearly, does Millfield attract sporting talent in the West Country as a matter of course. Three of the Colston's XV, Joseph Ewens, Jonathan Pritchard and Ricky Pellow, are in the England Under-18 team to play Scotland this week. "With the rewards that are likely to come into the game, a number of boys would like to make a career out of it," Alan Martinovic, the rugby master and the deputy head, said. "We like to set standards which the boys will not fall below."

Robinson, who missed this *Daily Mail*-sponsored final because he was playing for Bath, coaches the backs virtually every day of the week. There was no doubting the quality of their handling on Saturday, which led to two tries by Nathan Millett, the left wing. The concern for the competition's organisers must be that Colston's, an independent school actively looking to attract the most talented boys in the West Country and beyond, will continue to be too good for the rest. QEGS, as it is known, also lost in the final last year.

In the preliminary rounds this winter, four schools were summarily beaten by Colston's before King Edward, Stratford, at least provided some opposition in their semi-final, albeit losing 30-8. The same could be said of Millfield, who, during the term, led Colston's 13-0 at half-time before being beaten 18-13. Inevitably there is a good deal of interest in a number of the Colston's XV, though none has signed professional terms as yet.

That rugby is an integral part of QEGS's activities is evidenced by the school having nurtured six internationals, Mike Harrison among them. Its fixture against Bradford Grammar School has been going for 121 years, and hence is one of the oldest in the country. Yet the headmaster, Robert Mardling, favours all-rounders. "I would not give sports scholarships on principle," he said. "There is a danger of divisiveness."

QEGS is now an independent boys' school. That it does not take boarders puts it at an additional disadvantage to Colston's, although the fact that Wakefield is best known for rugby league is of no consequence. It is a school of great antiquity, having been founded in 1591, but this is one sport yet to be embraced.

The two cup competitions on the schools day, as it was described on Saturday, were open to entrants from both the state and independent sectors. In the under-15 final, Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, defeated Wellington College 17-13. This was followed by an under-16 international in which England beat Wales 15-3. The emphasis throughout the afternoon was on open, attacking rugby. "Schools rugby is about taking risks and I would never contemplate asking my half backs to kick the ball in the air at every opportunity to win games," John Cholewa, for 15 years master in charge of the game at QEGS, said.

The spectators appreciated that. Master in charge of rugby around the country would not have thought much of the boys who represented England and Wales not standing upright when the national anthem was played, but overall the standards were pleasing. "Play hard, play fair," Captain Michael Pearey, president of the England Schools Rugby Football Union, intoned in the programme. These boys did.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Photograph 36
Schools results 36

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Nick Szczepanik puts some spin on a sport enjoying a revival

Strike out or head for the gutter down tenpin alley

ALAN WELLER

Tim Lucas, 11, delivers a curve ball to pick up a spare down the alley at the Streatham Megabowl in south London, where lanes fill up with youngsters at weekends

SPORT FOR ALL

"I know it is hard to imagine," said Brian Michael, the England under-19 coach, and a former world champion, "but tenpin bowling is actually the biggest participation sport in the world. More people bowl than play golf, tennis or anything."

Surprising at first, perhaps, but less so on reflection. After all, most people have been to a bowling alley at one time or another, and it has the advantage of being a game that all ages can play; it's never called off for a frozen or waterlogged pitch, and the most common reason for not playing is that there isn't a lane free.

British tenpin bowling is enjoying a resurgence. After its introduction to these shores in the early 1960s, interest waned — but from a low of only 49 centres, the number has recovered to a healthy 200-plus. We also have a reigning world champion, 17-year-old Gemma Burden from Weston-super-Mare, who triumphed in São Paolo, Brazil, last November. Her introduction to the game was typical, although her rise to the top has been less so: her dedication to the practise necessary to reach world standard has meant interrupting her studies.

"My dad first took me to a bowling alley when I was four, just to play with my family, and I enjoyed it so I joined the local youth bowling club. I was taken over by the Great Britain coaches when I was about ten; I started to play more tournaments then. I played and won my first adult tournament when I was 16."

Apart from being a game which all generations can play together, it gives the impression of being equally popular with both men and women. In 1950s teen movies, bowling-alley images are generally of a unisex sport for those intent on mis-spending their youth; but according to Mr Michael, that image is one that the sport is trying to shake off. "Bowling centres and management have tried to take it out of the Fifties, and with the onset of computers to help with a complicated scoring system, it's a lot easier for the average punter to play the game. A lot of the centres are now very up to date."

The national championships — classed by averages so that players at three levels of ability could compete — have just finished at the Swindon Superbowl; I went to get some tips from Bernie White, the tournament secretary. First he helped me to select a ball. "Bowling centres supply a range of weights," he said, "so you have to hunt around to find a good fit. If anything, get one with the holes looser rather than tighter. When you get more serious, the professional at a centre will custom-drill a ball to fit your grip."

Properly equipped with ball and shoes, we took to the lanes. Ninety per cent of it is the approach," Mr White told me. "When you watch people just out for fun, some walk up, swing the ball a few times, maybe lob it a little . . ." That sounded uncomfortably familiar. First we studied the form. Left-handers apparently enjoy a slight advantage, and an impressive southpaw on the next lane, whose approach looked textbook, seemed to be getting good results. As a right-hander, Mr White gave me some hints about where to begin my approach from, and I let the first one go.

An extremely fortunate dead-centre hit looked good, but left two pins standing. Apparently, pins knocking over other pins get the strikes, not necessarily the ball hitting them. For this reason, the ideal point to aim for is the "pocket", slightly to one side of the centre pin, known as the head pin; the pocket on the right is called the "stateside", on the left the "Brooklyn". I turned out to be a confirmed Brooklyner. One way of hitting the pockets is to put curve, or "work" on the ball, but if, like me, you tend to bowl in a more-or-less straight line, it helps to approach from one side so that the ball comes at the pins diagonally.

Before I tried to pick up the spare (knock down the remaining pins), Mr Michael pointed out how to minimise the chance of missing by changing my angle of approach — fairly obvious stuff really, but only after you have been told.

As the session progressed, I began to sense that I knew what I ought to be doing, even if I wasn't always doing it. Fewer balls than usual went into the gullies, and that immensely satisfying sound of pins being sent crashing was getting steadily louder. The seventeenth ball was a strike, and felt like it from the second it left my hand, even if the extreme left-hand pin kept me waiting before finally falling over. Flushed with success, I finished with a three and a zero — but at least I knew where I'd gone wrong. And that was with only about half-an-hour's advice. Who knows what could be achieved with more dedication?

Coaching is available at most bowling centres: young players are especially well catered for. "We have up to 4,000 children playing every Saturday," Mr Michael said. "Over 2,000 will play in a national championship series on weekends throughout May. Kids are more exciting to watch than adults."

Young players will have to play for pure love of the game: lack of television revenue means they are unlikely to become big money-earners. "It's a hard sport to televise. In America they have cameras behind the pins so that you can see the ball coming towards you. We try to get it pushed forward, but it is difficult. It would interest me, but whether you could sell it to Mr and Mrs Average, I don't know. Topless tenpin, perhaps? That might be interesting."

Lyndon Bassett demonstrates the all-important grip

BOWLED

- **Most centres can arrange for coaching sessions and will give advice on equipment and joining a league or, for younger players, a youth bowling club. The British Tenpin Bowling Association (0181-478 1745) runs coaching courses for staff.**
- **The Swindon Superbowl, Shaw Ridge Park, Whitehill Way, West Swindon (01793 886 886), charges £3.35 per person per game (£2.85 concessions) at peak times (evenings and weekends) and £2.35 (£1.85 concessions off-peak) but, like other centres, often has special offers including family rates. The charge includes hire of shoes, which must be worn on lanes, and balls. A range of weights is available.**

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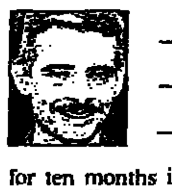
Pregnant pause interrupts seafaring plans



James Capstick on the dilemma presented by the prospect of a new arrival the day before the start of the BT Global Challenge

Just when I thought that, at last, things were sorted out in my preparation for the BT Global Challenge round-the-world yacht race aboard *Ocean Rover*, my wife, Tracey, dropped a bombshell. In fact, the mother of all bombshells.

She informed me that on September 28, the day before *Ocean Rover* and 13 other identical yachts are due to set sail from Southampton at the beginning of the "world's toughest yacht race", she is due to give birth to our third child.

To say I was gobsmacked is an understatement. Forgetting about the race for a moment, which is easier said than done, as a 37-year-old father of two boys, aged six and nine, who thought he had finished with nappies and sleepless nights, the thought of a new baby came as a shock.

My first question to Tracey was how on earth could it have happened, which is stupid really, but you know what I mean. It is just one of those things, isn't it? Then, I am ashamed to admit, I thought about how it would affect my decision to take part in the race.

It was difficult enough getting my head around abandoning the family for ten months in the first place, but this really brought the pains on. I looked up dilemma in the dictionary. It read: "Position presenting choice between equally unwelcome possibilities." Well, I think that just about sums it up. Do I or don't I?

Since winning the *Times* competition for a berth on *Ocean Rover*, selfishness has become part of my character, but how far can you go? How much can my wife and my family be expected to take and at what point do the costs outweigh the benefits?

The timing is dreadful. If I continue with the race, I will either leave Tracey in hospital with a day-old baby and not see her again until late December, when we plan to meet during the second stopover, in New Zealand, or, worse, I will have to leave her in hospital when she is still in labour.

I can well imagine what some people will think of me because I am already thinking it myself. These are not exactly the actions of a doting father and husband. In my defence, however, I have always approached the race with total support from Tracey and, at the moment, she still wants me to do it.

I have spent the past two years planning and dreaming of the challenge of the Southern Ocean and, as a family, we have already made emotional and financial sacrifices for it.

During training I have completed five-day stints, 24 hours a day, four hours on and four off, sailing triangles around Eddystone lighthouse in winter. Some of it has been horrendous — cold, wet and scary, with me throwing up over the side. I am not prepared to put that down to experience and throw the towel in. On a practical note, the biggest change to our plans concerns money. With Tracey pregnant and then bringing up our new baby, she will not be in a position to work as we had planned. I do not actually know at the moment how the family will live while I am away.

I have a recurring nightmare of running down the pontoon on the day of the start to jump aboard an already departing *Ocean Rover* still dressed in riding boots and spurs. (I should remind you at this point that I am a mounted policeman.) This vision has been slightly updated now to include the fact that I am also wearing a hospital gown and am passing out cigars to the skipper and all the crew.

My greatest fear from the beginning of this great adventure has been that something would prevent me from starting the race. I have to admit, though, that this particular something had never occurred to me. Anyway, as they often say in my line of work: "If you can't take a joke you shouldn't have joined." The Challenge continues — for now.

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CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION

THE TIMES

TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight, Channel 4's *The Greatest* gives you the second chance in the series to vote for the Greatest British sporting hero of them all. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson.

The main aim of the series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely - we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports - but *The Greatest* will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

Tonight is the third show in the 12-part series. Part one showed how the 20 sportsmen and women were shortlisted and last week Jackie Stewart and Linford Christie were considered. Two contenders will be examined in depth each week and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Danny Kelly, editor of *Total Sport*, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Eric Hall). Chairing the debate is Gordon Kennedy. The final show will give the results and declare The Greatest. *The Greatest* is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and repeated on Saturdays at 10am. The sporting stars under examination tonight are Bobby Moore and Torvill and Dean. *Times* writers give their appreciations to help your judgments.

TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS

BOBBY MOORE

Bobby Moore was the first to admit he was weak in the air, that his tackling could be stronger, that he was not the quickest footballer . It mattered not one jot. Moore was intelligent and skilful and could read a game to perfection. He was also England's finest captain. Who else would have remembered to bow to the Queen before receiving the Jules Rimet trophy in 1966? Who else would even have thought about wiping their hands of their sweat before shaking Her Majesty's hand? Captaining England to World Cup victory on home soil stands as the pinnacle of Moore's career. Yet he played his finest football four years later in Mexico. Pele's talents were held in check by a dazzling display in England's group match against Brazil.

Moore signed for West Ham United when he was 17. In 1964 West Ham won the FA Cup and then went on to win the European Cup Winners Cup at Wembley. Moore's performance against PSV Munich was, according to Ron Greenwood, the West Ham manager, "technical perfection". Alf Ramsey immediately made Moore England captain when appointed in 1963. He was 22. Over the next 11 years he collected 108 caps. In 1974 Moore retired from the international scene and left West Ham to join Fulham. Moore retired from the game in 1977 but his sense of dignity never left him and he bore the pain of the cancer that killed him three years ago with a calm courageousness.

TORVILL AND DEAN

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean never had to serve an apprenticeship in the matter of winning ice dance honours. Without bothering about silver or bronze, they went straight to gold in the European Championships of 1981, and never thereafter settled for less in European, world, and Olympic competition from 1981 to 1984. They missed the Europeans of 1983, because of an injury to Torvill while practising. Their domination was such that in their pomp they never once were beaten in any one of the three elements of ice dance, though faced with the challenge of such outstanding Russian couples as Moiseyeva-Minenkov, Bestemianova-Bukin and Klimova-Ponomarienko. Their complementary technique made them the perfect, well-balanced couple. Dean, an ice dancer from the start, commended his own special appeal, while Torvill, a former British pairs champion, gave substance to his choreographic innovations with superb technique.

Their strength was based an almost telepathic synchronisation of movement, and on their total dedication. Once they had created a dance, they ran through it in full every day. Thus did practice make perfect, while at the same time building up stamina. Torvill said after the Olympic gold medal in 1984 that she remembered nothing between the start and finish. A great part of their appeal, apart from their superlative skating, was the public perception of them as a couple deeply in love. They did get married, but to different partners.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

Achievement - for honours won and overall record

Dominance - for quality of opposition, longevity and domination of peers

Style - for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image

Fortitude - for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence

Impact - charisma and transcendence

THE PRIZES

Each week, Channel 4 and *The Times* will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96, to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series, *The Greatest* (Boxtree, £14.99).

At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all - a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call *The Greatest* phoneline, on

0891 66 55 44

Lines are open from 9pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 39p cheap rate, 49p at other times.

By post: complete *The Times* entry form and send it to *The Greatest* Week 2, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Thursday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
BOBBY MOORE	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts
TORVILL AND DEAN	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts

Name ....

Address ....

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Daytime telephone ....

Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual Times competition rules apply.

☐ Tick if you prefer not to receive further information from Channel 4 or The Times

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

STELLENBOSCH, South Africa: World Cross Championships: Men (12 1km): 1, P Tergat (Ken) 33min 44sec; 2, S Hissou (Mor) 33·56; 3, I Kirui (Ken) 33·57; 4, P Koech (Ken) 34·10; 5, H Gebreselassie (Eth) 34:28 Standings: 1, Kenya 33pts; 2, Morocco 99: 3, Ethiopia 107 Women: (6 3km): 1, G Wami (Eth) 20min 12sec; 2, R Cheruiyot (Ken) 20·18; 3, N Mugo (Ken) 20·21; 4, D Tulu (Eth) and C De Reuck (SA) both 20:21. GB: 19, P Radcliffe 21.13. Standings: 1, Kenya 24pts; 2, Ethiopia 44; 3 Romania 70. IAAF challenge standings: Men: 1, P Tergat (Ken) 125pts; 2, J Kariuki (Ken) 97, 3, J Kimani (Ken) and P Mosima (Ken) both 64. GB: 7, A Pearson 58; 10, C Sweeney 49. Women: 1, R Cheruiyot (Ken) 138pts; 2, B Szabo (Rom) 109. 3, G Wami (Eth) 104. GB: 5, P Radcliffe 95

ROME: Second annual marathon: Men: 1, M Taye (Eth) 2hrs 12min 2sec; 2, B Wolashe (Eth) 2:12 04: 3, F Ingargiola (It) 2·12:36; 4, J Maundu (Ken) 2 13:22; 5, L Gebremedhin (Eth) 2.13 28 Women: 1, F Roba (Eth) 2:29:05; 2, O Ferrara (It) 2·31·30. 3, I Biba (Ger) 2:32·15; 4, E Alemu (Eth) 2:36.29; 5, L Camberg (Pol) 2:38:47

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 108 San Antonio 120: Boston 99 Denver 98. Charlotte 92 Atlanta 117: Detroit 111 New Jersey 96; Indiana 111 Vancouver 94: Washington 108 Orlando 111 (OT); Dallas 84 Minnesota 110: Milwaukee 106 Miami 122; Utah 88 Cleveland 75; LA Clippers 107 Philadelphia 93, Sacramento 80 Portland 78.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby 106 Chester 86, Thames Valley 99 Doncaster 92: Worthing 131 Hemel 107.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Cardiff 78 Nottingham 72, Coventry 91 Bury 85, Oldham & Rochdale 94 Brixton 71: Solent 90 Stockton 94. Plymouth 79 Ware 88 Second division: Croydon 104 Greenwich 63, Liverpool ATAC 84 Swindon 81. Northampton 104 Chiltern 79. Poole 64 Oxford 89; Worcester 69 Westminster 104. Women: First division: Northampton 87 Plymouth City 61; Spelthorne 51 Sheffield 79: Thames Valley 65 London 56. Second division: Bristol 63 Doncaster 42. Leicester 97 Shropshire 35

WOMENS NATIONAL TROPHY: Semi-final: Crystal Palace 55 Manchester 44.

BOWLS

ADELAIDE: World championships: Pairs: Semi-finals: Scotland 22 Australia 11: Ireland 17 Wales 12. Final: Ireland 21 Scotland 19 Triples: Final: Scotland 26 New Zealand 5

BEMBRIDGE, Isle of Wight: EIBA Champion of Champions: Singles: Final: G Harlow (Ely) 21 M King (Lakeside) 14

SOUTHAMPTON: Atherley Trophy: Final: Surrey 120 Norfolk 96

BOXING

BANGKOK: World Boxing Association flyweight championship (12rds): Saen Sor Ploenchit (Thai, holder) bt Leo Gamez (Ven) pts.

NEW YORK: International Boxing Federation junior-lightweight championship (12rds): Arturo Gatti (Can, holder) bt Wilson Rodriguez (Dom) ko 6th.

MIAMI: Non-title heavyweight event (12rds): Henry Akinwande (GB) bt Gerard Jones (US) disq 7th.

LAS VEGAS: World Boxing Organisation flyweight championship (12rds): Alberto Jimenez (Mex, holder) bt Miguel Martinez (US) ko 5th

HAMBURG: European middleweight championship (12rds): Cancelled: Richie Woodhall (Telford, holder) v Salvador Yanez (Ger).

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day of four): Sydney: South Australia 383; New South Wales 215-4 Melbourne: Queensland 142 all out and 135-2, Victoria 255. Hobart: Tasmania 357-9 dec: Western Australia 186-3.

CURLING

HAMILTON, Ontario: Ford World championships: Men: First round: Scotland bt Switzerland 6-4; England bt Australia 9-2; Norway bt Sweden 6-5; Italy bt Germany 8-7; Canada bt USA 9-7. Women: First round: USA bt Scotland 6-3: Norway bt Finland 7-6; Canada bt Germany 6-4: Switzerland bt Sweden 7-4; Japan bt Denmark 8-1. Second round: Scotland bt Finland 12-2; USA bt Germany 7-6; Japan bt Sweden 10-6; Canada bt Norway 8-4. Denmark bt Switzerland 5-4

GOLF

AROEIRA: Portuguese Open: Leading Final-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 271: W Riley (Aus) 65, 67, 69, 70 273: M Davis 72, 68, 66, 67: M Gates 68, 70, 65, 70 275: B Lane 70, 71, 71, 63. J Haeggman (Swe) 67, 72, 68, 68 276: J Coceres (Arg) 67, 68, 71, 70 277: K Eriksson (Swe) 63, 73, 73, 68; J Spencer 72, 66, 71, 68, J Van de Velde (Fr) 74, 65, 70, 68; J Rivero (Sp) 71, 68, 69, 69; M Tunnicliff 75, 66, 67, 69. 278: M Wills 73, 69, 69, 67: A Sherborne 72, 69, 69, 68 279: R Willison 66, 73, 71, 69, D Smyth 68, 73, 68, 70: N Briggs 72, 69, 68, 70. 280: P Lawrie 72, 69, 70, 69; M A Jimenez (Sp) 71, 71, 68, 70: M Jonzon (Swe) 72, 72, 65, 71, O Karlsson (Swe) 68, 69, 66, 77 281: R Claydon 66, 72, 73, 70; G Emerson 73, 70, 68, 70: S Bottomley 71, 73, 69, 68; R Russell 74, 69, 70, 68; P Linhart (Sp) 68, 72, 70, 71. D Borrego (Sp) 67, 71, 70, 73

NEW ORLEANS: Freeport-McDermott Classic: Leading three-round scores (US unless stated) 204: S McCarron 68, 67, 69. 205: T Tolles 70, 69, 66 206: T Watson 68, 66, 72. 207: L Clements 67, 68, 74. 208: D Love 68, 68, 72. 209: S Appleby (Aus) 74, 69, 66, C Smith 71, 71, 67; S Verplank 70, 67, 72. 210: S Lowery 71, 71, 68; T Lehman 69, 71, 70: J Gallagher 70, 68, 72; H Sutton 71, 66, 73. 211: J Edwards 72 69 70, F Nobilo (NZ) 67 73 71, B Glider 69 71 71. 212 P Stewart 74, 71, 67: F Langham 74, 69, 69; K Clearwater 71, 71, 70; R Black 72, 70, 70; K Sutherland 72, 69, 71; R Wrenn 71, 67, 74; B McCallister 73, 64, 75. Selected: 215: E Els (SA) 72, 71, 72.

LA QUINTA, California: Liberty Mutual Legends tournament: Leading pairs: 131: Powell and Moody 65-66. 132: Hobday and Archer 67-65 135: Nicklaus and Player 66-69; Trevino and Hill 68-67. 136: Littler and January 69-67; Rodriguez and Henning 69-67. 137: Hill and Wynn 73-64; Stockton and Geiberger 72-65

ROYAL WEST NORFOLK CLUB: University match: Second Day: Singles (Oxford names first): N Pabari (Altrincham GS and Queen's) lost to J E B Stobbs (The Perse and St John's): M S P Banks (Charterhouse and Lady Margaret Hall) bt C J H Russell (Westlands H S and Downing), M B Lindalow (St Petri School, Sweden and St Antony's) bt P Guest (University of London and Darwin); W J Dugdale (Desborough and Exeter) lost to O Malik (King's College, London and St John's); J C S Hardy (Eton and Brasenose) bt D J Moriarty (Loughborough Univ and Homerton); M R Jones (Wallington County G S and St Hugh's) bt S A McLeod (University of Queensland and Wolfson); R J Weaver (RGS, High Wycombe and Worcester) bt C Murray (RGS Newcastle and Queens'); R S Elworthy (Eton and Wadham) lost to D Brown (University of St Andrew's and Hughes Hall); J R Saunders (Exeter School and Exeter) bt K M Metcalfe (Monmouth and Downing); I A S McLean (Monmouth and Worcester) bt N P Appleton (Worth and Sidney Sussex) Singles result: Oxford 7 Cambridge 3. Match result: Oxford 8½ Cambridge 6½

TOKYO: Novell KSB Open tournament: Final-round scores (Japan unless stated): 275: T Suzuki 68, 72, 68, 67 276: B Watts (US) 69, 68, 72, 67, E Herrera (Col) 67, 70, 69, 70 279: Y Kaneko 69, 73, 68, 69. 280: F Minoza (Phil) 70, 75, 66, 69; S Yokota 67, 71, 69, 73 281: H Yasuda 71, 74, 71, 65. 282: B Jobe (US) 71, 70, 71, 70; T Higa 70, 70, 72, 70; M Kimura 66, 71, 74, 71.

PHOENIX, Arizona: LPGA Tournament: Leading three-round scores (US unless stated): 210: K Parker-Gregory 69, 72, 69. 213: L Davies (GB) 71, 73, 69. 214: B Mucha 68, 73, 73 215: K Robbins 73, 70, 72: V Skinner 70, 70, 75. 216: L Neumann (Swe) 71, 74, 71, P Bradley 72, 72, 72: H Kobayashi (Japan) 72, 71, 73, P Sheehan 71, 71, 74; D Pepper 74, 67, 75; M Morris 68, 72, 76. 218: T Johnson (GB) 72, 73, 73; D Coe-Jones (Can) 69, 74, 75; A Sorenstam (Swe) 74, 68, 76 219: M Hirase (Jpn) 73, 74, 72. 220: A Okamoto (Japan) 78, 70, 72; K Webb (Aus) 70, 73, 77. 221: J Lidback (Peru) 74, 71, 76; K Marshall (GB) 71, 73, 77: A M Palli (Fr) 72, 71, 78 222: L Bemvenuti (Br) 72, 76, 74; C Pierce (GB) 74, 73, 75; H Alfredsson (Swe) 76, 70, 76. 223: A Dibos (Peru) 77, 70, 76; G Graham 76, 69, 78; J Stephenson (Aus) 74, 71, 78. 224: C Matthew (GB) 75, 73, 76; M Lunn (GB) 75, 72, 77: Grace Park (Kor) 73, 74, 77 225: M Figueras-Dotti (Sp) 76, 72, 77 226: L Walters (Can) 77, 69, 80 228: C Hj Koch (Swe) 70, 75, 73. British non-qualifiers: 150: P Wright 77, 73; A Nicholas 74, 76. 151: S Strudwick 75, 76. 154: H Dobson 79, 75; S Meynor 76, 78 Disqualified: K Davies

HOCKEY

MILTON KEYNES: International matches: Men: England 3 India 4. Women: England 2 France 0.

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division: Beeston 3 Olton and West Warks 2: Blueharts 2 Doncaster 1; Brooklands 0 Harleston Magpies 1; City Of Portsmouth 3 Richmond 3; Firebrands 2 Crostyx 1: Hampstead and Westminster 1 Isca 3; Oxford University 3 Bromley 1; Sheffield 4 Gloucester City 0; Slough 0 Edgbaston 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beeston	17	14	2	1	56	25	44
Oxford Univ	17	11	2	4	36	28	35
Edgbaston	17	10	3	4	25	19	33
Brooklands	17	8	6	3	41	27	30
Portsmouth	17	9	3	5	37	39	30
Harleston M	17	7	5	5	31	27	26
Doncaster	17	7	4	6	45	37	25
Firebrands	17	7	4	6	25	26	25
Blueharts	17	7	3	7	36	33	24
Gloucester City	17	7	3	7	31	36	24
Slough	17	6	4	7	30	32	22
Crostyx	17	7	1	9	23	26	22
Isca	17	7	0	10	27	32	21
Sheffield	17	5	4	8	27	35	19
Bromley	17	6	1	10	28	41	19
Hampstead	17	4	3	10	21	33	15
Richmond	17	4	1	12	29	36	13
Olton and WW	17	2	1	14	18	35	7

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Colchester 7 Redbridge and Ilford 0; Ipswich 1 Peterborough Town 3. Premier division B: Brentwood 2 Sudbury 2; Clacton 7 Stevenage 3; Dereham 2 Romford 1; Ipswich and East Suffolk 4 Westcliff 0; Luton Town 0 Old Southendian 4.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Hampshire/Surrey: Old Cranleighans v Purley Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: ETESSA v Bracknell; Ramgarhia v Harrow; Richings Park v Eastcote

LIVINGSTON: Home countries schools championship: Under-18: Wales 0 Ireland 3; Scotland 1 England 8 Under-16: Ireland 0 England 2; Scotland 3 Wales 0

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bracknell 0 Hightown 3; Clifton 3 Leicester 0; Doncaster 1 Sutton 2; Ipswich 2 Slough 3. Standings 1 Hightown 25; 2 Sutton 22; 3 Ipswich 20.

Hightown	11	8	1	2	24	8	25
Sutton CL	12	6	4	2	21	10	22
Ipswich	12	6	2	4	22	11	20
Clifton	12	6	2	4	15	9	20
Slough	12	6	0	6	14	17	18
B Leicester	11	4	4	3	15	15	16
Doncaster	12	3	1	8	11	20	10
Bracknell	12	0	2	10	3	35	2

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford 0 Canterbury 1; Chelmsford 3 Bedians 1; Exmouth 1 Wimbledon 2. Trojans 5 Bluehearts 2. Second division: Aldridge 0 Woking 5; Ealing 1 Olton 0: Sherwood 1 Students 1; St Albans 3 Reading 0

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bexleyheath 0 Cambs C 0; Ipswich 2 WGC 1; Saracens 1 Harleston 0, Sevenoaks 0 Loughtonians 3 Midlands: Bedford 2 Tamworth 1; C Ramblers 2 Peveril 0; Hampton 0 Leicester 0; Pickwick 2 Kettering 1. North: Newcastle 1 Don Valley 1, Poynton 7 Liverpool 0, Sheffield 1 Carlisle 1; York 2 Blackburn 2. South: Camberley 0 Winchmore Hill 1; City of Portsmouth 0 Dulwich 0; Hampstead 2 Worthing 1; Southampton 2 Hendon 0; Winchester 0 W Witney 1. West: Bournemouth 0 Wimborne 1; Redland 2 Leominster 4; St Austell 1 Cheltenham 2; Yate 1 E Glos 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 1 Montreal 4; Detroit 7 Colorado 0. New Jersey 2 Chicago 4; Ottawa 1 Hartford 1; St Louis 1 Anaheim 6; Winnipeg 4 Philadelphia 1; Calgary 1 San Jose 2 (OT); Vancouver 5 Dallas 2.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
NY Rangers	37	20	14	88	247	201
Florida	38	25	9	85	237	208
Philadelphia	36	22	13	85	241	186
New Jersey	33	28	11	77	187	171
Tampa Bay	33	28	11	77	213	223
Washington	33	29	10	76	201	187
NY Islanders	20	43	8	48	203	275

Northeast division

Pittsburgh	42	25	4	88	318	248
Montreal	36	28	8	80	237	220
Boston	34	29	9	77	246	239
Hartford	30	32	9	69	211	225
Buffalo	28	37	7	63	212	226
Ottawa	15	52	4	34	165	255

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
*Detroit	55	12	4	114	280	158
Chicago	37	24	11	85	245	192
St Louis	31	29	12	74	194	208
Toronto	28	34	12	68	215	230
Winnipeg	30	35	5	65	238	260
Dallas	23	36	13	59	202	241

Pacific division

†Colorado	41	22	10	92	286	214
Calgary	30	31	11	71	215	210
Vancouver	28	31	15	71	254	255
Anaheim	29	38	6	64	208	218
Edmonton	27	38	7	61	211	272
Los Angeles	21	37	16	58	230	275
San Jose	18	49	7	43	230	317

*clinched division title

†clinched playoff spot

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-offs: Group A: Fyfe 9 Basingstoke 7; Nottingham 3 Sheffield 0 Group B: Cardiff 6 Newcastle 3; Humberside 6 Durham 4 Promotion-relegation play-offs: Group A: Bracknell 11 Blackburn 3; Milton Keynes 7 Guildford 6. Group B: Dumfries 4 Slough 7

ICE SKATING

EDMONTON, Alberta: World figure championships: Leading final women's results: 1, M Kwan (US) 1 5pts; 2, Lu Chen (China) 3 0; 3, I Slutskaya (Russ) 4 5; 4, M Butyrskaya (Russ) 6 0; 5, S Bonaly (Fr) 8 5; 6, T Szewczenko (Ger) 8 5. Selected GB: 22, S Main 32 0.

LACROSSE

COBHAM, Surrey: All-England clubs and colleges tournament: Semi-finals: Berkshire Wanderers 5 Motspur 1; West London 2 Edinburgh Thistles 4 Final: Berkshire Wanderers 3 Edinburgh Thistles 2 (aet)

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY: North Of England: Premier division: Sheffield 6 Poynton 8; Timperley 4 Mellor 13; Stockport 14 Boardman & Eccles 8; Cheadle Hulme 9 Heaton Mersey 15.

ROWING

KINGSTON HEAD: Eights: 1, London A 14min 30sec (Open winners), 2, Queen's Tower 14·45 (Senior one winners); 3, London B 14·46, 4, London University 14:53; 5 Kingston and Isis 15.02 Other division winners: Senior two: Oxford University Lightweights 15:39 Senior three: Imperial College 15.36 Veteran: Bedford 15.50 Novice: London and St Bartholomew's Hospital 16:44. Junior: Latymer Upper 16:02 Junior fifteen: Kingston Grammar 17:25 Women's Senior three: Kingston Grammar, 18:51. Women's Novice: Weybridge, 20:03 Quads: Open: Kingston 16:32 Junior: Dulwich College 16·39 Junior sixteen: Latymer Upper 17:37. Women's Junior: Marlow 19·16 Coxed fours: Senior two: King's Canterbury 16:57. Senior three: Abingdon 17·07. Women's Open: Kingston 18 53 Women's Senior 3: Lea 19:31.

SHINTY

Sutherland Cup Final: Kilmallie 1 Kingussie 6. MacQuiston: Semi finals: Bute 2 Oban Celtic 3, Inveraray 2 Oban Camanachd 3. Marine Harvest League: Premier division: Glenurquhart 1 Oban Camanachd 2: Oban Celtic 0 Fort William 2 North: First division: Caberfeidh 5 Strathglass 0; Kinlochshiel 1 Inverness 0; Lochaber 1 Kilmallie 2; Lochcarron 1 Skye 6; Lovat 4 Beauly 1. Second division: Glengarry 6 Lovat 2. Third division: Kincraig 4 Inverness 0; Strathglass 0 Kinlochshiel, 2 South: First division: Strachur 0 Glenorchy 5 Second division: Strathclyde Police 2 Taynuilt 2. Third division: Kyles Athletic 5 Ballachulish 0.

SNOOKER

Draw for the £1.2 million Embassy World Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield from April 20-May 6. First round: S Hendry (Scot) v J Ferguson (Eng): D Roe (Eng) v G Wilkinson (Eng); K Doherty (Rep of Ire) v N Terry (Eng); D Morgan (Wales) v D Henry (Scot); J Wattana (Thai) v J Michie (Eng): N Bond (Eng) v A Hamilton (Eng). D Harold (Eng) v N Foulds (Eng); J Parrott (Eng) v R Lawler (Eng). R O'Sullivan (Eng) v A Robidoux (Can); A Drago (Malta) v S James (Eng). J Higgins (Scot) v M Clark (Eng). A McManus (Scot) v M Price (Eng): J White (Eng) v E Henderson (Scot); P Ebdon (Eng) v D O'Kane (NZ): T Griffiths (Wales) v J Burnett (Scot). S Davis (Eng) v W Thorne (Eng)

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE. Coventry 54 Wolverhampton 41

CHALLENGE MATCH: Swindon 57 Reading 39

SQUASH

HATFIELD: Equitable Life Super Series Finals: Third qualifying round: R Eyles (Aus) bt B Martin (Aus) 10-8, 8-10, 9-3, 7-9, 9-7; M Cairns (Eng) bt C Walker (Eng) 10-8, 9-3, 7-9, 4-9, 9-2; D Harris (Eng) bt M Chaloner (Eng) 9-1, 9-6, 10-8, J Khan (Pak) bt P Nicol (Scot) 9-7, 10-8, 9-3. Final: Harris bt Martin 10-8, 7-9, 9-4, 6-9, 9-2 Third-place play-off: Khan bt Eyles 9-7, 9-4, 9-2.

CHINGFORD: Cannons British Satellite Circuit: Semi-finals: Men: M Berrett (Yorkshire) bt S Cowie (Norfolk) 9-10, 9-6, 9-0; 9-1 J Davis (Herts) bt S Handley (Oxon) 9-4, 9-4, 9-7. Women: S Wright (Kent) bt R Macree (Essex) 9-3, 9-5, 9-4, T Weeks (Aus) bt S Brind (Kent) 9-2, 8-10, 9-7, 9-5

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: Optrex British Olympic trials finals: Men: Freestyle: 100m: 1, N Shackell (Millfield) 50.74; 2, M Stevens (Satellite) 50.78, 3, A Rapley (Sheffield) 50.79 400m: 1, P Palmer (Lincoln) 3min 51.25sec; 2, G Smith (Stockport M) 3·54 30: 3, G Hudson (Portsmouth N) 3·56.20 Breaststroke: 200m: 1, N Gillingham (Birmingham) 2:15.15, 2, A Ayers (Swansea) 2.17 86 (Welsh record): 3, R Maden (Rochdale A) 2:18.02 Backstroke: 100m: 1, N Willey (Barnet C) 55 04sec; 2, M Harris (Tower Hamlets) 55 44: 3, A Ruckwood (Birmingham) 55 91 200m: 1, A Ruckwood (Birmingham) 2:00.56; 2, M Harris (Tower Hamlets) 2:01 34; 3, R Hope (Warrender) 2:03 50 (Scottish record). Butterfly: 200m: 1, J Hickman (Stockport M) 1:58.50 (British record), 2, S Parry (Liverpool) 2:01.81. 3, R Ashcroft (Wigan) 2:02 35. Individual medley: 400m: 1, B Lafferty (Leeds) 4:28 69, 2, D Warren (Leeds) 4:29 76, 3, J Harris (Elthamian) 4:29.78. Women: Freestyle: 200m: 1, K Pickering (Ipswich) 2:01 39; 2, S Hardcastle (Bracknell) 2·01 91: 3, C Huddart (Leeds) 2·03 93 400m: 1, S Hardcastle (Bracknell) 4.14.41; 2, V Horner (Derwentside) 4.18 71; 3, S Collings (Bradford) 4:21.25. Breaststroke: 100m: 1, J King (Waltham Forest) 1:10 52; 2, M Hardiman (Birmingham) 1·11.56, 3, S Brownsdon (Coventry) 1·11 67. Backstroke: 100m: 1, H Slatter (Warrington) 1:03.84; 2, S Price (Barnet C) 1·04.16; 3, K Osher (Ealing) 1:04.61 Butterfly: 100m: 1, C Foot (York) 1·01 89; 2, S Greenep (Ipswich) 1·02 74, 3, S Massey (Bradford) 1 03.44. Individual medley: 200m. 1, S Rolph (Newcastle) 2 16 41 (British and English record); 2, L Findlay (Wycombe Dist) 2:18 46; 3, H Slatter (Warrington) 2 20 04

CARDIFF: Welsh Amateur diving championships: Winners: Men: Springboard: 1m: M Shipman (Sheffield) 322.85. 3m: R Morgan (Sheffield) 379.30 pts. 10m: P Waterfield (Highgate) 288 75 Women: Springboard: 1m: A Page (Sheffield) 137.05 3m: A Howard (Knowsley) 191 60 Highboard: 10m: H Allen (Sheffield) 265 75 Boys (13-14 yrs): Springboard: 3m P Waterfield (Highgate) 249.20 Boy's 13-14 years: Highboard: 3m: P Waterfield (Highgate) 266.15. Girl's (13-14): Springboard: 3m: A Page (Sheffield) 178.60. Highboard: H Lambert (Leeds) 179.15

TENNIS

KEY BISCANE, Florida: Lipton Championships: Singles: Second round: Men: N Pereira (Ven) bt T Muster (Austria) 7-6, 6-4; P Sampras (US) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-3, 6-2, M Chang (US) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 6-3, 6-4; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt R Reneberg (US) 6-4, 6-3, V Spadea (US) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 6-3, 7-5, H Dreekman (Ger) bt W Ferreira (SA) 7-6, 3-6, 6-4; S Bruguera (Sp) bt T Henman (GB) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; M Rosset (Switz) bt J Stark (US) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; A Costa (Sp) bt J-L Rascon (Sp) 6-7, 6-3, 6-4; A Boetsch (Fr) bt D Nestor (Can) 7-5, 6-3; T Martin (US) bt A Corretja (Sp) 7-6, 6-4; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-4, 6-3; J-P Fleurian (Fr) bt A Gaudenzi 6-1, 7-5; S Edberg (Swe) bt J Frana (Arg) 7-6, 7-6; R Furlan (It) bt P Tramacchi (Aus) 7-6, 6-3; M Joyce (US) bt G Forget (Fr) 7-6, 7-5; J Sanchez (Sp) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; S Lareau (Can) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 6-4, 6-3, D Nainkin (SA) bt T Nydahl (Swe) 6-1, 5-7, 7-6; B Black (Zim) bt R Jabali (Br) 6-3, 6-1, M Tebbutt (Aus) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 6-1, 7-6, J Bjorkman (Swe) bt G Rusedski (GB) 6-4, 7-6, A Agassi (US) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-4, 1-6, 7-6; J Courier (US) bt S Bryan (US) 6-1, 6-0

Women: C Rubin (US) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-2, 6-0; J Novotna (Cz) bt S Stafford (US) 7-5, 6-3; A Coetzer (SA) bt D Graham (US) 6-4, 6-3; J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt C Morariu (US) 6-4, 6-0; N Tauziat (Fr) bt L Lee (US) 6-4, 7-5, I Spirlea (Rom) bt C Singer (Ger) 6-3, 6-2, A Sugiyama (Japan) bt A Gavaldon (Mex) 6-1, 6-1. K Adams (US) bt P Begerow (Ger) 6-3, 6-4, L Raymond (US) bt K Studenikova (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-3; B Paulus (Austria) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 7-5, 6-3; J Capriati (US) bt E Likhovtseva (Rus) 7-6, 6-4; S Testud (Fr) bt A Serra-Zanetti (It) 6-1, 6-1; M McGrath (US) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-2, 6-7, 6-3; K Kschwendt (Ger) bt Y Kamio (Japan) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2; K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 2-6, 6-3, 7-6, G Sabatini (Arg) bt A Smashnova (Isr) 6-3, 6-0

ST PETERSBURG: Open tournament: Semi-finals: Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 6-3, 6-4: M Gustafsson (Swe) bt L Burgsmuller (Ger) 7-5, 7-5 Final: Gustafsson bt Kafelnikov 6-2, 7-6

RUGBY UNION

Pilkington Cup

Semi-finals

Bath 19 Gloucester 10

Bath: Try: Adebayo Con: Callard. Pens: Callard 4 Gloucester: Try: Benton. Con: Mapletoft. Dropped goal: Kimber

London Irish 21 Leicester 46

London Irish: Tries: Flood, Humphries Con: Corcoran Pens: Corcoran 3. Leicester: Tries; Delaney, Harris, M Johnson, Poole, R Underwood, Wells. Cons: Liley 5 Pen: Liley Dropped goal: Harris.

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Wasps 25 Sale 16

Wasps: Tries: Greenstock, Scrase, White Cons: Gregory 2. Pens: Gregory 2 Sale: Try: Saverimutto Con: Liley Pens: Liley 3.

West Hartlepool 21 Harlequins 91

West Hartlepool: Tries: Herbert, O Evans, Wood. Pens: Parker 2. Harlequins: Tries: Allison 2, Bromley 2, Challinor, Greenwood 2, Mullins, O'Leary 2, Staples 2, Watson 2 Cons: Challinor 9 Pen: Challinor.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	12	11	0	1	378	176	22
Harlequins	14	10	0	4	400	235	20
Leicester	12	10	0	2	301	154	20
Sale	13	7	0	6	255	218	14
Wasps	13	7	0	6	269	266	14
Orrell	13	6	0	7	216	293	12
Bristol	12	5	0	7	194	269	10
Saracens	13	4	0	9	196	343	8
Gloucester	12	3	0	9	189	254	6
W Hartlepool	12	0	0	12	192	382	0

LEADING SCORERS: 180: J Liley (Leicester: 1 try, 17 conversions, 46 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal) 170: J Callard (Bath; 3t, 31c, 31pg). 133: S Mason (Orrell; 3t, 11c, 32pg). 127: R Liley (Sale, 2t, 15c, 27pg, 2dg). 110: T Stimpson (West Hartlepool, 5t, 8c, 23pg). 103: A Lee (Saracens; 1t, 4c, 26pg, 4dg) 85: D Pears (Harlequins, 11c, 14pg, 7dg). 73: M Tainton (Bristol; 5c, 20pg, 1dg) Tries: 10: D O'Leary (Harlequins). 8: S Bromley (Harlequins) 7: G Smith (Orrell) 6: A Adebayo (Bath), J Guscott (Bath). S Hackney (Leicester). R Kitchin (Harlequins), A Lumsden (Bath).

Second division

Northampton 48 Bedford 0

Northampton: Tries: Beal, Bell 2, Pountney 2. Rodber, Seely, Townsend Cons: Grayson 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northampton	13	13	0	0	655	145	26
London Irish	14	11	0	3	452	322	22
London Scot	14	9	2	3	287	238	20
Waterloo	14	6	2	6	258	343	14
Wakefield	13	6	0	7	216	216	12
Moseley	14	6	0	8	226	314	12
Blackheath	14	5	1	8	231	338	11
Bedford	14	4	1	9	236	423	9
Newcastle	14	3	1	10	234	326	7
Nottingham	14	2	1	11	216	346	5

LEADING SCORERS: 248: M Corcoran (London Irish; 8 tries, 29 conversions, 50 penalty goals) 151: P Grayson (Northampton; 3t, 52c, 8pg) 129: A Kerr (Moseley, 5t, 7c, 28pg, 2dg) 126: M Emmett (Waterloo; 1t, 11c, 33pg) 118: S Hodgkinson (Nottingham; 8c, 31pg, 3dg) 113: S Howard (Blackheath 2t, 11c, 22pg, 5 dropped goals) 110: M Jackson (Wakefield; 13c, 28pg) 105: J Steele (London Scottish: 3t, 13c, 21pg, 2dg) 86: A Finnie (Bedford, 1t, 16c, 13pg, 3dg) Tries: 15: M Allen (Northampton). 13: G Seely (Northampton). G Townsend (Northampton) 9: C O'Shea (London Irish) 8: Corcoran 7: M Dawson (Northampton). M Dods (Northampton), M Oliver (Bedford)

Third division

Morley 32 Fylde 8

Morley: Tries: Acland, Holdsworth, Stowe. Tiffen. Cons: Grayshon 3 Pen: Grayshon Dropped goal: Grayshon Fylde: Pens: Gough 2

Otley 15 Harrogate 16

Otley: Pens: Rutledge 5 Harrogate: Try: penalty try. Con: Zoing Pens: Zoing 2 Dropped goal: Zoing.

Reading 15 Rotherham 17

Reading: Tries: Phillips, Vatcher Con: Belshaw Dropped goal: Hill Rotherham: Tries: Dawson, Heaslegrave, Scott Con: Plant.

Richmond 15 Coventry 10

Richmond: Tries: Boyd, Cuthbert. Con: Gregory. Pen: Gregory. Coventry: Try: penalty try Con: Thomas Pen: Thomas.

POSTPONED: Rosslyn Park v Rugby

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Richmond	14	11	1	2	387	173	23
Coventry	14	11	0	3	347	190	22
Rugby	13	9	1	3	293	192	19
Rotherham	14	8	0	6	273	301	16
Morley	14	7	1	6	254	247	15
Harrogate	14	5	2	7	250	317	12
Otley	14	5	1	8	208	316	11
Reading	14	4	1	9	306	332	9
Rosslyn Park	13	3	2	8	216	277	8
Fylde	14	1	1	12	195	365	3

LEADING SCORERS: 177: R Zoing (Harrogate: 3 tries, 12 conversions, 43 penalty goals, 3 dropped goal). 167: J Gregory (Richmond: 3t, 25c, 34pg). 159: J Grayshon (Morley; 2t, 16c, 35pg. 4dg) 150: J Quantrill (Rugby: 3t, 18c, 33pg) 123: P Rutledge (Otley, 1t, 5c, 36pg). 103: K Plant (Rotherham, 11c, 23pg, 4dg) 95: S Gough (Fylde, 2t, 8c, 23pg). 84: P Belshaw (Reading: 1t, 11c, 19pg): 84: C Quick (Coventry; 1t, 8c, 21pg). Tries: 8: A Boyd (Richmond). C Philips (Reading). E Saunders (Rugby) 6: B Shepherd (Coventry)

Fourth division

Exeter	53 Aspatria	8
Leeds	15 Clifton	9
Liverpool St H	39 Havant	25
London Welsh	29 Redruth	31
Walsall	38 Plymouth	10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	14	12	0	2	357	155	24
Liverpool St H	14	10	1	3	403	242	21
London W	14	10	0	4	335	183	20
Redruth	14	6	1	7	276	310	13
Havant	14	6	1	7	226	286	13
Leeds	14	6	1	7	212	274	13
Walsall	14	6	0	8	304	260	12
Clifton	14	5	1	8	205	229	11
Aspatria	14	3	1	10	238	372	7
Plymouth	14	3	0	11	186	431	6

Fifth division north

Wharfedale 44 Nuneaton 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wharfedale	11	11	0	0	263	112	22
Worcester	12	9	0	3	319	187	18
Winnington P	11	8	0	3	207	195	16
Birmingham	11	7	1	3	187	149	15
Sheffield	11	6	0	5	177	177	12
Preston G	11	5	1	5	154	181	11
Sandal	11	5	0	6	206	194	10
Stourbridge	11	5	0	6	180	168	10
Nuneaton	11	4	1	6	172	291	9
Kendal	11	4	0	7	195	209	8
Stoke	11	3	0	8	175	184	6
Lichfield	11	3	0	8	131	216	6
Broughton P	11	0	1	10	116	219	1

Swalec Cup

Quarter-finals

Llanelli 11 Cardiff 10

Llanelli: Try: I Evans. Pens: Thomas 2. Cardiff: Try: A Lewis Con: J Davies Pen: J Davies

Neath 44 Dunvant 17

Neath: Tries: Burnell, Evans 2, Higgs, S Williams, Woodland 2 Cons: Bridges 3 Pen: Bridges Dunvant: Tries: Edwards, Farnworth, Niblo Con: Thomas

Newbridge 15 Pontypridd 20

Newbridge: Tries: Jones, Smith Con: Withers Pen: Withers Pontypridd: Try: Paul John. Pens: Jenkins 5.

Newport 18 Caerphilly 10

Newport: Try: Snow Con: G Rees. Pens: G Rees 3 Caerphilly: Try: W Evans Con: Conway. Pen: Conway

Heineken League

First division

Swansea 29 Bridgend 38

Swansea: Tries: Evans, Robert Jones, Thomas 2 Cons: A Williams 3. Pen: A Williams Bridgend: Tries: Back, G Thomas 2, James. Cons: Griffiths 3. Pens: Griffiths 4.

Treorchy 20 Abertillery 12

Treorchy: Try: Hames. Pens: D Evans 4 Dropped goal: D Evans. Abertillery: Pens: M Williams 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Pontypridd	16	13	0	3	505	223	59	17	43
Llanelli	15	11	0	4	419	203	57	18	40
Neath	15	10	1	4	414	205	63	18	39
Swansea	18	10	0	8	499	347	68	18	38
Cardiff	14	11	0	3	442	217	52	15	37
Bridgend	18	9	0	9	428	414	55	16	34
Newport	16	10	1	5	347	351	31	7	28
Newbridge	17	8	0	9	267	318	35	8	24
Ebbw Vale	18	8	0	10	322	423	34	6	22
Treorchy	16	3	0	13	260	529	28	5	11
Abertillery	17	2	0	15	253	647	24	3	7
Aberavon	16	2	0	14	203	482	20	3	7

Second division

Cross Keys 35 Maesteg 20

Cross Keys: Tries: Emyr, Harris, Nicholls, Powell, Wysocki. Cons: Bebb 2. Pens: Bebb 2. Maesteg: Tries: Morgans, St John Towell Cons: Pearce 2. Pens: Pearce 2

Pontypool 25 S Wales Police 38

Pontypool: Tries: Rhead, W Morris. Ward, West. Con: Williams Pen: Williams South Wales Police: Tries: Cox, Evans, Parfitt, Price 2. Cons: Price 5 Pen: Price.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	16	13	0	3	385	176	52	15	41
Pontypool	18	11	0	7	436	313	55	14	36
Caerphilly	17	13	0	4	311	212	37	9	35
Cross Keys	18	8	0	10	390	320	47	12	28
Bonymaen	17	8	0	9	346	343	40	10	26
Llandovery	17	11	0	6	279	290	30	4	26
S W Police	18	7	0	11	342	369	41	10	24
Maesteg	18	8	0	10	290	355	31	5	21
Ystradgynlais	18	8	0	10	268	319	30	4	20
Abercynon	17	7	0	10	247	286	28	4	18
Llanharan	17	6	0	11	282	408	26	2	14
Tenby Utd	17	4	0	13	221	406	25	3	11

THIRD DIVISION: Blaina 20 Glamorgan Wndrs 13; Narberth 11 Penarth 15; Tondu 12 Builth Wells 8: Mountain Ash 18 Cardiff Inst 8

Tennents 1556 Cup

Fifth round

Melrose 50 Boroughmuir 22

Melrose: Tries: B Redpath, Bain, Broughton, Chalmers, G Parker, G Shiel, Joiner Cons: G Parker 3. Pens: G Parker 3. Boroughmuir: Tries: Finnie, Stark 2 Cons: Easson 2 Pen: Easson.

Tennents Championship Regional League

East one

Watsonians 86 Biggar 17

East two

Dundee HSFP	51 Grangemouth	8
Stewarts Mel FP	75 Gordonians	15

Postponed: Kirkcaldy v Corstorphine.

South

Gala 35 Langholm 20

West

Glasgow HK	47 Glasgow Acads	25
Glasgow South	35 Ayr	18

Insurance Corporation League

First division

Blackrock College	7 St Mary's Coll	11
Cork Const	11 Garryowen	23
Instonians	3 Old Wesley	12
Shannon	25 Ballymena	12
Young Munster	13 Lansdowne	14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Garryowen	7	6	0	1	119	92	12
St Mary's	6	5	0	1	98	63	10
Shannon	7	5	0	2	91	63	10
Lansdowne	7	4	0	3	140	120	8
Cork Const	6	4	0	2	102	92	8
Young Munster	6	3	0	3	77	80	6
Old Wesley	6	2	1	3	71	80	5
Blackrock	6	2	0	4	92	90	4
Ballymena	6	1	1	4	60	113	3
Old Belvedere	6	1	0	5	68	81	2
Instonians	7	1	0	6	97	141	2

Second division

Bective Rangers	17 NIFC	6
Dungannon	9 Terenure Coll	31
Malone	29 Dolphin	24
Sunday's Well	9 Clontarf	12
Wanderers	9 Greystones	22

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Old Crescent	6	6	0	0	124	58	12
Terenure Coll	7	5	1	1	114	67	11
Dungannon	7	5	0	2	146	105	10
Greystones	6	4	0	2	114	103	8
Bective R	7	4	0	3	96	98	8
Sunday's Well	7	3	1	3	163	127	7
Wanderers	6	3	0	3	100	95	6
Malone	6	3	0	3	120	131	6
Clontarf	6	1	0	5	62	113	2
NIFC	6	0	0	6	95	159	0
Dolphin	6	0	0	6	71	149	0

CLUB MATCHES: Askeans 23 Basingstoke 10, Bristol 86 London Scottish 29; Camborne 28 Penzance 14; Edinburgh Acads 38 Bradford and Bingley 8; Hawick 54 Kelso 14; Kendal 26 Northern 3; Lichfield 51 Camp Hill 0; Met Police 14 Harlequins XV 40; Moseley 26 Worcester 7. Newcastle 48 Stirling County 29; Nottingham 8 Orrell 15; Saracens 27 Blackheath 25; Sheffield 55 Vale of Lune 0; Stoke 22 Manchester 23; Stourbridge 22 Cheltenham 40; Tabard 44 Hertford 9; Heriots FP 44 Musselburgh 7; Wigtownshire 29 Banbridge 36; Weston-super-Mare 16 Blackwood 14; Selkirk 39 Peebles 7 Cancelled: Barking v Bishop's Stortford, Bonymaen v Abercynon.

Pilkington Shield

Semi-finals

Helston 20 Wellingborough 13
(at Bridgwater)

Medicals 13 Old Centralians 10
(at Wakefield)

Representative match

Wales Youth 9 England Colts 3
(at Swansea)

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Wellington 25 Queensland 32 (at Wellington); New South Wales 44 Australian Capital Territory 10 (at Sydney).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Semi-final

Bradford 28 Leeds 6

Bradford: Tries: Calland, Knox, Scales 3. Goals: Cook 4. Leeds: Try: Cummins Goal: Holroyd. Att: 17,139
(at Huddersfield)

Ian Blease testimonial match

Salford 34 Wigan 34

Other match

Wakefield 12 London 32

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE Premier division. Dudley Hill 14 Leigh Miners Welfare 10; Egremont 12 West Hull 16: Heworth 6 Wigan St Patricks 15, Lock Lane 12 Saddleworth 13: Woolston 64 Hemel Hempstead 8

ANDRE CAMARA

Alex Sanderson, from Kirkham Grammar School and the vice captain, maintains the momentum as England play Wales in the under-15 international at Twickenham

RACING

DONCASTER

Going: soft

2.00 (5f) 1, Kingsinger (T Quinn, 9-2); 2, Magical Times (7-1), 3, Spondulicks (6-1). Nervous Rex 4-1 fav. 12 ran. 1¼l, 2½l. M Channon. Tote: £5.20; £2.10, £2.70, £1.80 DF: £19.60 Trio: £40 20. CSF £35 16.

2.30 (7f) 1, Sualtach (L Dettori, 16-1); 2, First Maite (13-2); 3, Silverdale Knight (25-1), Nigel Hills 9-4 fav 14 ran 5l, nk. R Hollinshead. Tote: £17 90; £4 60, £2.50, £4 40. DF: £119.70. Trio: £897.80. CSF £121.11. Tricast: £2,495.59.

3.00 (1m) 1, Achame (B Doyle, 7-2); 2, Mironov (7-1); 3, Mushahid (5-2) Projection 7-4 fav. 5 ran 10l, 4l C Brittain Tote: £5.10; £2.20, £2.20 DF: £21.10. CSF: £22.36.

3.40 (1m) 1, Stone Ridge (Dane O'Neill, 33-1); 2, Roving Minstrel (14-1); 3, Barbaroja (16-1). 4, Shinerolla (11-1) Sharp Prospect 7-1 fav 24 ran. 1¼l. 6l. R Hannon. Tote: £32 00, £5.90, £6.50, £3.90, £2 20. DF: £320.70. Trio: £5,782.70, CSF: £413.08. Tricast: £5,909.57.

4.15 (1m 4f) 1, Juyush (W Carson, 5-1); 2, Daraydan (7-1); 3, Penny A Day (4-1). Right Win 6-4 fav 6 ran. NR: Rainbow Top. 3½l, 6l. B Hills. Tote: £4.40; £2.10. £3.00. DF: £10.50. CSF: £33 30.

4.45 (6f) 1, Fire Dome (R Hughes. 11-1); 2, The Puzzler (8-1); 3, Cool Jazz (9-2) Domulla 100-30 fav 8 ran, NR: Carranita, Fantasy Racing 1¾l, 5l. R Hannon. Tote: £13 90; £2.70, £2.70, £2.20 DF £46 00 Trio: £75.50. CSF: £85.72.

5.15 (6f) 1, Green Barries (J Weaver, 4-1 fav); 2, Proud Look (7-1); 3, Frontman (11-2) 15 ran NR: Autoberry, No Hiding Place 5l, 3½l. M Johnston. Tote £4.20; £2.00, £2.40, £3 60 DF £7.80 Trio: £85.20. CSF £34.83

Jackpot: not won (pool of £97,753.88 carried forward to Folkestone today).

Placepot £8,617.70. Quadpot £341.00.

NEWBURY

Going: heavy

1.00 1, Sunny Bay (11-4); 2, Do Be Brief (5-2 fav); 3, Turning Trix (100-30). 7 ran. NR: Strong Medicine, Yorkshire Gale.

1.30 1, Kingsfold Pet (5-1); 2, Frogmarch (4-1 fav); 3, Teinein (9-2). 11 ran. NR: Windward Ariom.

2.00 1, Oatis Rose (33-1); 2, Carmel's Joy (25-1); 3, Supreme Lady (4-1 jt-fav); 4, Tellicherry (10-1). Miss Optimist 4-1 jt-fav (pulled up). 19 ran

2.35 1, Dream Ride (5-2 jt-fav); 2, Ramsdens (14-1); 3, Granby Bell (11-2). Boxgrove Man 5-2 jt-fav (pu). 12 ran. NR: Equinox, Make A Stand, Master Goodenough.

3.05 1, Coolree (11-4); 2, Royal Segos (11-2); 3, Green's Fair (5-1). Dark Stranger 5-4 fav (fell) 5 ran NR: The Brud

3.35 1, Abbey Street (7-2 fav), 2, Intermagic (9-2). 3, Crimson King (10-1). 16 ran NR: Country Star, Rising Dough, Spanish Blaze, The Captain's Wish.

4.05 1, French Holly (Evens); 2, Get Real (9-2); 3, Lively Encounter (25-1). 14 ran. NR: Another Cockpit, Dawn Leader, Edgemoor Prince, Ivory Coaster, Moon Devil, Mr Bojangles, Pollyanna, Ready Money Creek, Red Viper, Royal Raven, Shakels £6.60. DF: £4 70. Trio: £188.40 CSF: £6.63

Placepot £22.40. Quadpot £12.20.

BANGOR

Going: heavy

2.10 1, Eben Al Habeeb (14-1): 2, Indicator (11-8 fav), 3, Lawful Love (33-1). 16 ran. NR: Althrey Aristocrat, Ice Cold In Alex.

2.40 1, Kadari (3-1 fav); 2, Bushehr (16-1), 3, George Lane (8-1); 4, Rainbow Walk (25-1). 17 ran NR: Beau Quest, Chowpor, Hullo Mary Doll

3.10 1, Mudahim (7-4 jt-fav); 2, Change The Act (7-4 jt-fav); 3, The Toaster (2-1) 3 ran.

3.45 1, Parsons Boy (4-11 fav); 2, Derring Bud (8-1); 3, Over The Wrekin (20-1). 5 ran NR: Andre Laval.

4.20 1, Pharare (8-1). 2, New Tribe (33-1); 3, Jamestown Boy (20-1) Pride Of May 4-1 fav. 14 ran. NR: Viscount Tully.

4.55 1, Three Saints (13-8 fav); 2, Bathwick Bobbie (9-2); 3, Pond House (9-2). 10 ran. NR: Seymour Spy, Sweet Buck.

5.25 1, Supreme Norman (14-1), 2, Lothian Commander (14-1), 3, Northern Star (14-1) Dolce Notte 4-5 fav 15 ran. NR: Carlingford Lass, Konvekta Queen, Zojila.

Placepot: £111.20. Quadpot: £41.50.

LINGFIELD PARK

Going: standard

2.25 1, Further Future (9-1); 2, Suparoy (6-5 fav), 3, Drittholme (6-1) 7 ran

2.55 1, Cool Fire (10-3); 2†, Mattimeo (10-11 fav), 2†, Safecracker (25-1) 7 ran NR, Spiral Flyer.

3.30 1, The Institute Boy (7-1). 2, Lord Sky (11-4 fav); 3, Our Shadee (7-2) 10 ran

4.00 1, Renown (10-1); 2, Herr Trigger (9-2); 3, Golden Touch (7-2 jt-fav) Wild Palm 7-2 jt-fav. 8 ran. NR: Robellion

4.35 1, Lady Dignity (4-1). 2, Domoor (3-1); 3, Rowlandsons Charm (11-2). Hever Golf Eagle 9-4 fav. 7 ran

5.10 1, Fort Knox (100-30); 2, Again Together (5-1). 3, So Intrepid (9-4) 8 ran

Placepot: £27.60.

Quadpot: £13.90.

SCHOOLS SPORT

RUGBY UNION

UNDER-16 INTERNATIONAL: England 15 Wales 3. Daily Mail under-18 Cup: Final: Colston's 20 Queen Elizabeth GS, Wakefield 0 Daily Mail under-15 Cup: Final: Royal GS, High Wycombe 17 Wellington College 13 (all at Twickenham)

FOOTBALL

ADIDAS VICTORY SHIELD INTERNATIONAL: Northern Ireland 1 Scotland 0. Under-15 international: Wales 1 Republic of Ireland 1 England Fuji Film Trophy: Semi-final: Hackney and Tower Hamlets 1 Bury 2 Green Trophy under-13: Pendle 2 South Ribble 3 Inter-Town challenge: Manchester 3 Rochdale 0; Huddersfield 4 Grimsby 1: Derby 2 Sheffield 2; Oldham 2 Wigan 1, Mid Cheshire 1 Leeds 5 Postponed: Rotherham v Nottingham. Northern Merit League: Blackpool 1 Trafford 1, Bradford 5 Blackburn 1. London Corinthian Shield: Semi-final: Barking 1 Islington 3 London Hawks Trophy: Semi-final: Luton 3 Harlow 2 Essex Finch Shield: Barking 6 South East Essex 0 Mayes League: Southampton 4 Gosport 3. Vale Cup: Basingstoke 2 East Berks 4 West Yorkshire League: Hull 4 Barnsley 3 Welsh Shield: St Helens 5 Ynys Mon 3 Alcock Cup: Kirkby Knowsley 1 Halton 1. Vernon League: Wirral 3 St Helens 0; Skelmersdale 0 Liverpool 9 Inter-Association: Chester 6 Macclesfield 0; Hull 1 Barnsley 1. Luton: English six-a-side South East championship: Final: Surrey 0 Middlesex 1 Worksop: English Midland six-a-side championship: Semi-finals: Staffordshire 3 Warwickshire 1; Derbyshire 1 Worcestershire 0 (aet). Final: Staffordshire 1 Derbyshire 1 (Staffordshire won 4-3 on penalties).

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public Schools doubles championship: Senior event: Eton 1 (N Bailey and P Wigan bt Eton II D Palmer-Tomkinson and G Smith-Bingham 15-4, 15-4, 17-14, 5-15, 12-15, 15-0. Malvern II (D Hill and B Bomford) bt Cheltenham (T Hughes and T Hale) 12-15, 15-10, 15-6, 15-4, 15-1. Wellington (A and J Clowes) bt Charterhouse J Hamblin and E Tennant 0-15, 15-3, 15-5, 5-15, 18-13, 8-15, 15-12. Senior second pairs: Eton (G Smith-Bingham and D Palmer-Tomkinson) bt Wellington (N Symons and D Trentham) 11-15, 15-0, 18-15, 12-15, 15-1, 15-1 Colts: Harrow (A Titchener-Barrett and C Wilson) bt Cheltenham (S Fairbairn and S Cowley) 15-3, 15-10, 15-2, Charterhouse (A Hollingsworth and H Nash) bt Wellington (N Kinder and J Alexander) 15-12, 15-0, 17-15, 15-2, Tonbridge (D Cherry and A Philipson) bt Haileybury (M Farmiloe and N Rogers) 15-12, 11-15, 15-2, 15-8 Junior colts: Quarter-finals: Tonbridge (J Parker and N Hunt) bt Malvern (T Bomford and J Thompstone) 15-1, 15-6, 15-6, Winchester (B Pilbrow and M Snaith) bt Radley (S Higson and M Silcock) 15-2, 8-15, 14-17, 15-8, 15-5; Eton (E Cazalet and A Loudon) bt Wellington (M Griffith-Jones and O Rigby) 15-1, 15-2, 15-4

SQUASH

NOTTINGHAM: SRA National Schools championships: Boys: Semi-finals: Millfield 3 Stewart's Melville 2; Wycliffe 3 Crownwoods (South London) 2. Final: Wycliffe 5 Millfield 0 (A Start bt J Barrington 9-4, 9-2, 9-3, G Williams bt T Richards 3-9, 9-7, 9-3, 9-3, G Morgens bt M Hayes 9-3, 9-0, 9-2; D May bt J Wilkins 7-9, 9-2, 9-4, 5-9, 9-2: C Archer bt C Olsen 9-5, 9-0, 9-2. Girls: Semi-finals: Millfield 5 Benenden 0; George Watson's 4 Chipping Norton 1 Final: Millfield 3 George Watson's 2 (E Spitteler lost L Leitch 9-4, 9-3, 4-9, 3-9, 4-9; S Doughty lost S McFadyen 1-9, 3-9, 9-4, 5-9; V West bt J Holgate 9-0, 9-2, 9-1: N Crawford bt J Wood 9-2, 9-4, 9-3, S Stirk bt C Macan 9-1, 9-4

CYCLING

MILAN TO SAN REMO RACE (294km): 1, G Colombo (It, Gewiss) 7hr 0min 27sec, 2, A Gontchenkov (Ukr, Refin) at 1sec; 3, M Coppolillo (It, MG): 4, M Scandri (GB, Motorola) all same time: 5, S Zanini (It, Gewiss) 32; 6, F Baldato (It, MG) same time. 68, C Boardman (GB, GAN) 49, 150, S Yates (GB, Motorola) 8:20 World Cup standings: 1, Colombo 50pts. 2, Gontchenkov 35; 3, Coppolillo 25. 4, Sciandri 20, 5, Zanini 18, 6, Baldato 16

ROAD RACES: Europa two-day (Meonstoke, Hampshire, 142m) 1, M Earley (Team Raleigh) 6hr 8min 32sec; 2, P Collins (Irish Heritage CC) at 15sec, 3, D Axford (Team Energy) at 20sec Romford-Harlow (87m): 1, R Ellingworth (Team Ambrosia Desserts) 3.23·00. 2, D Williams (Ambrosia) at 26sec, 3, G Foord (Scott International) same time Ashfield Classic (Nottinghamshire, 50m) 1, W Randle (Optimum Performance RT) 2·02·20; 2, P Curran (Optimum Performance) same time; 3, M Lovatt (Optimum Performance) at 5sec. Concorde RCC (Nether Whitacre, Warwickshire, 66m): 1, M Bell (Team Castelli) 2 45 00; 2, I Gilkes (Parker International RT) same time; 3, P Wilkes (Bradgate RC) at 1 00 Cardiff Byways RCC (Llantwit Major, 68m) 1, A Owen (CC Abergavenny) 3 02·00, 2, S Howells (Cornium CC), 3, P Foley (Heron RC) all same time

TIME-TRIALS: Leicestershire RC (hilly, 50km) 1, G Platts (Coalville Wh) 1·15·14: 2, S Campbell (Coventry Olympic) 1·18·14, 3, N Portess (Melton Olympic) 1·18 42 Team: Coalville Wh 3:59·35 Hemel Hempstead CC (hilly, 30m): 1, J Harrow (Team Chiltern) 1 14 18; 2, S Howes (Team Energy) 1 15.28; 3, S Gaywood (CC Luton) 1 15 44 Team: Hemel Hempstead CC 4·13.22 North Midlands CF (25m) 1, W Moore (Leo RC) 52.44, 2, D Willetts (CC Giro) 53 22; 3, M Botrill (Coalville Wh) 53 59 Team: Jamor RT 2 46 14. Ely and Dist CC (25m) 1, G Dighton (Leo RC) 55·06 (course record). 2, A Horner (VC Camelot) 56 59; 3, M Pyne (Leo RC) 57·34. Team. Cambridge Univ CC 3·04.26 North Middlesex and Herts CA (25m): 1, I Cammish (Velo Vianto) 55·20; 2, K Andrewartha (Met Police CC) 57 11; 3, J Cross (N Bucks RC) 58.00 Team: North Bucks RC 3 01:43 South Staffs CA (25m) 1, L Rathbone (Tamworth RCC) 55:26, 2, J Stollery (Parker International RT) 56·02; 3, R Eperjesi (Elizabethan CC) 57·20. Team: Walsall RCC 3·02.17

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7 30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Carling Premiership
Southampton v Coventry (8 0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
Third division
Doncaster v Mansfield

Vauxhall Conference
Dagenham and Red v Bath (7 45)
Hednesford v Stevenage (7 45)

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Worcester v Sudbury Tn

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis v Aldershot Town. Second division: Croydon v Egham

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Winsford v Barrow

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol Rovers v Charlton: Chelsea v Brighton (at Kingstonian FC, 7 0), Millwall v Bristol City (7.0): Oxford United v Watford: Swindon v West Ham (7.0), Tottenham v Crystal Palace (at St Albans FC) Second division: Birmingham v Plymouth (7 0)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Sheffield United (7 0). Blackburn v West Bromwich (at Preston FC, 7.0), Wolverhampton v Liverpool (at Telford FC), Second division: Port Vale v Grimsby (7 0).

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Folkestone (1 50): Fontwell Park (2 10), Hexham (2 0)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield, Carlisle v Rotherham (7 45): Hull v Notts County: Peterborough v Blackpool (7 45). Wycombe v Bradford (7 45). York v Bournemouth Third division: Chester v Cambridge United; Fulham v Leyton Orient (7 45); Hereford v Lincoln, Preston v Bury. Scunthorpe v Exeter

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Dover v Welling (7 45). Halifax v Southport (7 45). Macclesfield v Northwich (7 45); Telford v Woking (7 45)

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-final, second leg: Scotland 1 v Hungary (2) (at Easter Road)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7 0 unless stated

CLUB MATCHES: Cross Keys v Neath: Glamorgan Wanderers v Treorchy: South Wales Police v Penarth; Tiverton v Exeter (7 15): Tredegar v Pontypool

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League Chester v London (8 0)

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes (Sunningdale)

HOCKEY: Women's International Great Britain v France (Bisham Abbey, 3 0)

RACING: Huntingdon (2.20); Newcastle (2.30): Sandown Park (2.10).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Goffs Complex, Kildare)

SPEEDWAY: Challenge. Reading v Swindon (7 30); Wolverhampton v Cradley Heath and Stoke (7.30)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England v Bulgaria (at Wembley, 8 0): Scotland v Australia (at Hampden Park, 8.0). Northern Ireland v Norway (at Windsor Park, Belfast): Ireland v Russia (at Lansdowne Road, Dublin)

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Portsmouth v Port Vale (7.45)

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Gateshead v Altrincham (7.45)

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Moseley v RAF (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser All-Star Game: North v South (Granby Halls, Leicester, 8 0)

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes (Sunningdale).

HOCKEY: Women's International: Great Britain v France (Bisham Abbey, 3.0).

RACING: Catterick Bridge (2.20). Chepstow (2 0), Lingfield Park (AW, 2 10)

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Goffs Complex, Kildare)

SPEEDWAY: East Midlands Bowl, second leg Long Eaton v Coventry (7.30) Challenge Hull v Sheffield (7 30).

THURSDAY

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes (Sunningdale)

RACING: Aintree (2.0): Leicester (2.55): Taunton (2 15)

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Goffs Complex, Kildare).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League Ipswich v Bradford (7.30). Challenge London v Peterborough (7 30): Sheffield v Hull (7 45)

FRIDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Paris v Sheffield (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League Newcastle v Leicester (8.0): Leopards v Worthing (8 0).

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes (Sunningdale).

RACING: Aintree (2.0), Lingfield Park (AW, 2.20), Ludlow (2 15): Sedgefield (2.10).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Goffs Complex, Kildare).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Belle Vue v Coventry (7.30). Oxford v Swindon (7.30). Challenge Peterborough v Long Eaton (7.30).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn v Everton, Bolton v Manchester City; Leeds v Middlesbrough; Queens Park Rangers v Southampton; Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea; Tottenham v Coventry; Wimbledon v Nottingham Forest.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Derby v Stoke; Grimsby v Birmingham; Leicester v Sheffield United; Luton v Ipswich, Millwall v Crystal Palace, Norwich v Charlton; Port Vale v Barnsley; Portsmouth v West Bromwich; Reading v Oldham; Southend v Tranmere; Sunderland v Huddersfield, Wolverhampton v Watford Second division: Blackpool v Brentford; Bournemouth v Bristol Rovers; Bradford v Swansea, Brighton v Rotherham; *Bristol City v Swindon; Crewe v Chesterfield; Notts County v Carlisle; Peterborough v Walsall; Shrewsbury v Hull, Stockport v Oxford United; Wrexham v York; Wycombe v Burnley. Third division: Cardiff v Cambridge United; Darlington v Lincoln; Doncaster v Chester; Exeter v Barnet; Fulham v Plymouth, Hartlepool v Colchester; Leyton Orient v Bury, Mansfield v Wigan; Northampton v Scunthorpe, Rochdale v Gillingham; *Scarborough v Preston: Torquay v Hereford.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham v Stevenage; Bath v Runcorn; Bromsgrove v Slough, Dover v Morecambe, Gateshead v Welling; Halifax v Farnborough; Kidderminster v Northwich, Southport v Stalybridge; Telford v Macclesfield; Woking v Hednesford

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Falkirk v Hearts; Hibernian v Kilmarnock; Partick v Motherwell; Raith v Rangers First division: Airdrie v Dumbarton; Clydebank v Dunfermline, Dundee v Greenock Morton; St Johnstone v Hamilton; St Mirren v Dundee United. Second division: Berwick v Clyde; Forfar v Ayr, Montrose v East Fife; Stirling v Stenhousemuir; Stranraer v Queen Of South Third division: Arbroath v Alloa; Cowdenbeath v Albion; Livingston v East Stirling. Queen's Park v Caley This; Ross County v Brechin.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bristol v Bath; Harlequins v Sale; Orrell v Leicester; Wasps v Gloucester; West Hartlepool v Saracens. Second division: Bedford v London Scottish; Blackheath v Northampton: Nottingham v Moseley; Wakefield v London Irish; Waterloo v Newcastle. Third division: Coventry v Otley; Fylde v Rosslyn Park; Harrogate v Rugby; Richmond v Reading; Rotherham v Morley. Fourth division: Aspatria v London Welsh (2.30): Clifton v Liverpool St Helens; Havant v Exeter; Plymouth v Leeds; Redruth v Walsall. Fifth division north: Birmingham Solihull v Broughton Park; Kendal v Winnington Park; Lichfield v Wharfedale; Nuneaton v Sandal, Sheffield v Preston Grasshoppers, Stoke v Stourbridge Fifth division south: Askeans v Weston-super-Mare; Barking v North Walsham; Berry Hill v Cheltenham; Camberley v Henley: Lydney v Camborne; Met Police v Tabard

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division: Cardiff v Abertillery (2.30); Ebbw Vale v Aberavon (2.30). Llanelli v Newport (2 30), Neath v Pontypridd (2.30); Treorchy v Newbridge (2.30) Second division: Abercynon v Llandovery (2.30); Bonymaen v Pontypool (2.30); Cross Keys v Dunvant (2.30). Llanharan v Caerphilly (2 30); Maesteg v Tenby United (2 30); Ystradgynlais v South Wales Police (2.30).

SRU TENNENTS 1556 CUP: Fifth round: Dundee HSFP v Jed-Forest; Glasgow Acads v Gala; Hawick v Biggar; Kilmarnock v Corstorphine; Musselburgh v Preston Lodge; Stewart's Mel FP v Heriot's FP; Watsonians v Langholm.

INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE: First division: Ballymena v Blackrock College (2.30); Garryowen v Young Munster (2.30); Old Belvedere v Instonians (2.30); Old Wesley v Shannon (2.30). St Mary's College v Cork Constitution (2 30). Second division: Clontarf v Dolphin (2.30); Greystones v Old Crescent (2.30); NIFC v Terenure Coll (2.30); Sunday's Well v Dungannon (2 30); Wanderers v Malone (2.30)

WILLIS CORRON TROPHY: Army v Royal Navy (at Twickenham).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Halifax v London (5.30). Oldham v Wigan (at Boundary Park, Oldham, 6 0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby v Chester (8.0); Thames Valley v Doncaster (8.0); Worthing v Hemel (8.0).

BOXING: World Boxing Council bantamweight championship. Wayne McCullough (Belfast, holder) v Jose Luis Bueno (Mex) (The Point, Dublin)

ICE HOCKEY: British Championship semi-finals (Wembley Arena).

RACING: Aintree (1.35), Beverley (2.0). Hereford (1.20): Wolverhampton (AW, 7 0)

ROWING: Head of the River (Mortlake to Putney).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Goffs Complex, Kildare): British Open (Plymouth Pavilions)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League. Bradford v Wolverhampton (7.30). Coventry v Ipswich (7.30): Cradley Heath and Stoke v Long Eaton (at Stoke, 7 30), Swindon v Oxford (7 30).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CUP: Semi-finals: Aston Villa v Liverpool (at Old Trafford, 4 0); Chelsea v Manchester United (at Villa Park, 1.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Castleford (6 0); Leeds v Warrington Workington v St Helens. First division: Batley v Whitehaven (5 30): Featherstone v Rochdale (6 0); Huddersfield v Salford (3 30): Hull v Wakefield (3.15): Keighley v Dewsbury (3 30). Second division: Bramley v Leigh (5.0): Carlisle v Chorley, Doncaster v Barrow; Highfield v Hunslet, South Wales v Hull K R (at Aberavon, tba). York v Swinton (3.15)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Newcastle (5 0), Sheffield v Manchester (6.15): Hemel v Leicester (1 30), London v Birmingham (5 0)

ICE HOCKEY: British Championship Finals (Wembley Arena).

MOTOR CYCLING: British superbike championship (Donington Park).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Goffs Complex, Kildare). British Open (Plymouth Pavilions)

Limit to role of expert on video evidence

In re N (a Minor) (Child abuse: Evidence)

Before Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment March 14]

Where an allegation of child sexual abuse was made and an interview with the child was video recorded, the recording was admitted into court as a form of hearsay evidence and it was for the judge to decide its weight and credibility. Expert evidence would be used to explain and interprete the video but it was the duty of the judge alone, not the expert, to decide whether or not the child should be believed.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by a father against the dismissal by Judge Cotterill in Taunton County Court on March 14, 1995 of the father's application for contact with the child.

The mother had made an allegation that the father had sexually abused the child. After the allegation was made the child protection team arranged an interview with the child to be video recorded.

Miss Judith Parker, QC and Mr Christopher Naish for the father; Miss Patricia Scotland, QC and Mr Ralph Dixon for the mother; Mr Bruce Coleman for the guardian ad litem.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that a judge approaching such a recording should remind himself of the following:

1 The recording was admitted as a form of hearsay evidence. It was for the judge to decide its weight and credibility. He would accordingly have regard to the fact that, in the instant case, the evidence from the child was elicited in response to leading questions under some pressure.

He would judge the internal consistency and inconsistency of the story. He would look for any inherent improbabilities in the truth of what the child related and would decide what part, if any, he could believe and whether stripped of embellishments of fancy or exaggeration, there remained, nonetheless, a hard core of truth.

2 The judge would also receive expert evidence to explain and interpret the video. The expert evidence would cover such things as the nuances of emotion and behaviour, the gestures and the body movements, the use or non-use of language and its imagery, the vocal inflections and intonations, the pace and pressure of the interview, the child's intellectual and verbal abilities, or lack of them, and any signs or the absence of signs of fantasising.

3 There were particular problems in the reception of expert evidence in separating out that which was admissible from that which was inadmissible. It was only the judge's duty to decide whether whether or not the child should be believed: see *In re S and B (Minors) (Child abuse: Evidence)* ([1990] 2 FLR 489, 498B and 499B) per Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Stocker; also *In re F S (Minors)* (unreported April 7, 1995, CA) per Lord Justice Morritt.

From those passages, the position on the proper role of expert evidence appeared to his Lordship to be:

(i) The expert's evidence of his or her belief in the truth of what the child was saying was ordinarily inadmissible because it trespassed on the judge's domain and usurped his function.

(ii) Proper evidence from an expert would be couched in terms that fact (a) or (b) was consistent with or inconsistent with sexual abuse, that it rendered the child's evidence capable or incapable of being accepted by the judge as true.

Medical witnesses were frequently called to give evidence of their diagnoses. A diagnosis of sexual abuse was sometimes a proper medical question in the case of obvious physical injury to the genital area. In other cases the diagnosis was heavily dependent on what the child said.

It was difficult for that diagnosis to be made without having formed a view as to the veracity of the child and the court had to be sympathetic with the clinician in such a case if in the course of his evidence he said that he believed the child.

The strict law of evidence was contained in the three citations above. One could not, however, expect the subtleties of the law of evidence to be understood by the child psychiatrist and the child psychologist.

Experience showed that the subtleties were not always understood by legal practitioners. His Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Morritt that more care had to be taken but in the imperfect world in which those difficult cases were conducted the ultimate safeguard was the judge.

It was for judges always to ensure that the decision at the end of the day was theirs. Whether or not the child was telling the truth was ultimately one for them not for the expert.

4 Evidence of a diagnosis of sexual abuse of the kind his Lordship had been discussing called for a very high level of expertise about which the court had always to be satisfied.

For the court to rely on opinion evidence, even to admit it, the qualifications of the witness must extend beyond experience gained as a social worker and require clinical experience as or akin to a child psychologist or child psychiatrist.

5 A guardian ad litem on the guardian's panel usually brought his experiences as a social worker to bear on the discharge of his duties as guardian ad litem.

His Lordship endorsed the passage in the *Manual of Practice for Guardians ad Litem and Reporting Officers* (HMSO (1992) p40) which recommended: "The guardian should not attempt to appear in court as an expert witness in matters on which he is not competent and credible in the court's eyes as this can only undermine the child's case. The guardian is expected to be an expert in general child care matters, not an expert in specialist areas."

6 There was a further danger to the guardian ad litem giving evidence as an expert. His duties were to safeguard the interests of the child in the manner described by the rules: section 41(2)(b) of the Children Act 1989.

By the Family Proceedings Rules (SI 1991 No 1247 (L20)) his duty was to advise the court on a number of matters including what orders should be made in determining the applications: see rule 4.11(4).

It was impossible for him to advise without having come to his own conclusion about the harm the child was alleged to have suffered. He had to decide in the exercise of his own duty to safeguard the child's interest whether or not he believed the child.

Judges could not complain if he stated that belief as his reason for coming to the conclusion and giving the advice he advanced. It might be better if his report and his evidence expressly acknowledged that he realised and accepted that that was the court's decision, and even if it was not expressly acknowledged, the judge must make it clear to the guardian and to the parties that the ultimate decision would be his and his alone.

7 It was a function of the judicial art and skill to apply those observations with discretion and with circumspection as the facts of the particular case demanded.

The point was made in the present case that there was neither the time nor the money nor the availability of expertise which would have enabled the guardian ad litem to have achieved the counsel of perfection which was implicit in the foregoing.

Where opinions were proferred on subjects beyond the competence of the witness, then the judges must sift the admissible from the inadmissible and give weight to what they admitted as might be appropriate. The business of the court must be conducted with some eye to the practicalities as well as the technicalities.

Applying those observations to the present case, his Lordship concluded that:

(a) the evidence obtained from the videoe interview was so tainted by pressure and leading questions as to be unreliable:

(b) as a consequence, future disclosures might also be tainted;

(c) the guardian ad litem's experience in a child abuse team was not sufficient to establish his ability to express an opinion on the emotional responses of the child to the matters being pressed on her. In so far as he expressed the view that the approach adopted by the police officer and social worker was perfectly proper and understandable and necessary, he was plainly wrong for the interview was in flagrant breach of established procedure. That error undermined the validity of the evidence of his observations of the child during his interview.

The judge in accepting the belief of the court welfare officer and the guardian ad litem that the child had been sexually abused fell into the error of accepting as admissible evidence that which was inadmissible.

The possibility of the child's evidence having been contaminated by a very pressured, driven interview by the child protection team, the lapse of time, the absence of repeated complaint, the mother's presence, all that should have given rise to anxiety about the reliance to be placed on what the child was saying. There was no constellation of factors pointing to sexual abuse, only unsatisfactory hearsay evidence and unsatisfactory opinion.

His Lordship had come to the clear conclusion that the judge was wrong to find that the father had sexually abused his daughter. Since that finding informed his decision on contact, his decision to dismiss the father's application was fatally flawed. There was no alternative but to send the matter back for rehearing of the father's application.

Lord Justice Neill gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Ford Simey Daw Roberts, Exmouth; Gilbert Stephens, Exeter; Kay Firth-Butterfield, Taunton.

Rectification possible after discharge of jury

Regina v Maloney (Peter James)

Before Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Alliott and Mr Justice Bennett

[Judgment March 15]

The discharge of a jury was not a bar to the rectification of their verdict.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing the appeal of Peter James Maloney against his conviction by a majority of 11 to 1 on August 21, 1995 in Northampton Crown Court (Judge Corrie and a jury) of indecent assault. On appeal the sentence of 42 months imprisonment was reduced to 24 months.

Section 17 of the Juries Act 1974 provides:

"(3) The crown court shall not accept a verdict of guilty . . . unless the foreman of the jury has stated in open court the number of jurors who respectively agreed to and dissented from the verdict."

Mr Clive Sutton, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr John Pini for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE ALLIOTT, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the grounds of appeal against conviction related solely to the fact that when delivering the majority verdict, the foreman of the jury did not state how many jurors agreed with and how many dissented from the verdict.

On Friday August 18, 1995 after the judge had given the majority verdict direction the jury retired again to consider their verdict.

When they returned to court at 15.17hr the court clerk asked the foreman whether at least ten members of the jury had agreed upon a verdict and the foreman replied "yes" and gave a guilty verdict. The jury were told that they were free to go.

Later that day the judge had counsel back in court to discuss the fact that when taking the majority verdict the clerk had not asked how many jurors had agreed with the verdict and how many had dissented from it. It was agreed that the jury should reconvene the following Monday for the procedural step to be complied with.

On Monday, August 21 the court reconvened. Defence counsel queried whether the inaccuracy was capable of correction, given that the jury had left the building on the previous occasion.

The judge took the view that it could be corrected, not least because of the provision in section 43 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 permitting a jury to separate after first retiring to consider their verdict.

There could be no doubt that the purported majority verdict of August 18 was vitiated by the failure to ascertain the number of jurors who respectively agreed to and dissented from the verdict.

The wording of what was now section 17(3) of the 1974 Act was mandatory: see *R v Barry (Christopher)* ([1975] 1 WLR 1190) in which the court considered the predecessor section 13(2) of the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

On August 21 the verdict was properly taken if the court was in a position to take it in the light of what had gone before.

The cases of *R v Russell* ([1984] Crim LR 425), *R v Parkin* ((1824) 1 Mood 45), *R v Vodden* ((1853) Dears CC 229), *R v Carter; R v Canavan* ([1964] 2 QB 1), *R v Andrews* ((1985) 82 Cr App R 148) and *R v Follen* ([1994] Crim LR 225) were considered.

In the light of the authorities, their Lordships had no doubt that had it been possible to reconvene the court with the jury immediately the omission to obtain the numbers agreeing and dissenting was appreciated, then it would have been permissible to carry out the rectifying procedure.

Discharge of the jury was not a bar to the rectification of their verdict.

Turning to consider the impact of the lapse of time before the rectifying procedure was carried out, before the passing of the 1984 Act dispersal of the jury would have been fatal. Now dispersal itself was no bar to subsequent rectification.

Juries dispersing for the night in the usual circumstances when they had not reached a verdict were given certain directions, but their Lordships did not consider the absence of directions a bar to rectification when all that had to be done was to establish how many had voted for the guilty verdict and how many against it.

Fortunately, it was possible to reassemble the entire jury on the Monday morning, the next working day after their purported verdict. There was no suggestion that they deliberated further on the Monday and no reason to think that the numbers 11 to 1, when given by the foreman in the presence of all the other jurors were not correct.

The position would be different had the jury had to deliberate further or, perhaps, if the verdict was being altered from not guilty to guilty, but their Lordships were not persuaded that the lapse of time in the circumstances of the case rendered the verdict unlawful.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Northampton.

Order valid despite omission

Regina v Ellis

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Mr Justice Rougier and Mr Justice Mitchell

[Reasons March 8]

A confiscation order made pursuant to section 1 of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 remained a valid order notwithstanding that the court making the order failed to fix a term of imprisonment in default of payment as required by section 31(2) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973.

The Court of Appeal so held when giving reserved reasons for dismissing on February 22 an appeal by Gary Ellis against a confiscation order for £23,000 made by Judge Beashel on July 19, 1994, following the appellant's plea of guilty at Bournemouth Crown Court on November 26, 1993 to producing and supplying cannabis.

Mr Paul Hester, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Mark Horton for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE MITCHELL, delivering the reasons of the court, said that it was submitted for the appellant that the confiscation order was fatally flawed and should be quashed because the sentencing judge failed to observe a mandatory requirement of the legislation, namely the making of an order of imprisonment in default of payment; and that that defect could not now be remedied.

The confiscation order was made under section 1 of the 1986 Act. Section 6 provided that section 31(2) of the 1973 Act should have effect so as to treat the amount of the order as a fine.

Section 31 of the 1973 Act provided: "(2) . . . if the crown court imposes a fine on any person . . . the court shall make an order fixing a term of imprisonment . . . if any sum which he is liable to pay is not duly paid or recovered."

It was clear from *R v Popple* ((1993) 14 Cr App R (S) 60, 64) that if the provisions of the 1986 Act and the 1973 Act were to be fully complied with the sentencing court made two orders and not one; the confiscation order, and the order in default.

The failure to make the second order did not taint the first.

R v Onwuka ((1991) 95 Cr App R 47) could be distinguished and did not compel a different conclusion.

The order in the present case was lawful and capable of being enforced. There was no reason in law or common sense to hold that a failure to observe the mandatory requirement to impose a sentence of imprisonment in default of payment required the court to quash the confiscation order.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Bournemouth.

Jobless director gets no discount in ban

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Arif and Others

Before Mr Justice Chadwick

[Judgment December 20]

The fact that a company director had not been able to act as such while disqualification proceedings were pending was not to be taken into account in determining what his appropriate period of disqualification should be under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

Mr Justice Chadwick, sitting in the Chancery Division at the Birmingham District Registry, so held on an application by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry seeking disqualification orders pursuant to section 6 of the 1986 Act against Mohammed Arif, Saleem Arif and Ronald Davis.

Mr Michael Fay for the secretary of state; Mr Stephen Neville for Mohammed Arif; Mr Saleem Arif and Mr Ronald Davis in person.

MR JUSTICE CHADWICK considered the evidence against the three directors of the company which had become insolvent and decided that disqualification orders should be made against Mohammed Arif for seven years, Saleem Arif for two years and Ronald Davis for three years.

It had been argued on behalf of Mohammed Arif that, in fixing the appropriate period, regard should be had to the fact that since the institution of the proceedings in June 1993 he had been prevented from taking appointment as a director of a company because no suitable directorship would be offered to a person against whom disqualification proceedings were pending. In practice, therefore, he had already been disqualified by circumstances from acting as a director since 1993.

His Lordship could see considerable attraction in an approach which led to some credit being given for the two and a half years during which those proceedings had been pending, but it appeared to him that such an approach was precluded by the structure of the 1986 Act.

Section 6 required that the period of disqualification should be at least two years. The period had to commence at the date of the order.

The Court of Appeal had explained in *In re Grayan Building Services Ltd (In liquidation)* ([1995] Ch 241, 254-55) that it was not open to a court to decide to make no order for disqualification by reason of events which had occurred during the period between the date of the failure of the company and the date of the order.

Once a finding of unfit conduct had been made, the court was required to make a disqualification order, notwithstanding that it might be satisfied that as at the date of the order no further protection was required for the public.

It was clear, therefore, that there would be cases in which the court was required to make a disqualification order of two years in circumstances in which it was satisfied both (a) that that was the longest period of disqualification which could be appropriate having regard to the nature of the unfit conduct which it had identified and (b) that the effect of the proceedings had been already to prevent the respondent from acting as a director for more than two years. In such a case the period of pending proceedings could not be taken into account.

Logic required that, if the period of pending proceedings could not be taken into account in a case of that nature, it could not be taken into account in any other case.

That did not lead to the conclusion that a period of de facto disqualification during the pendency of proceedings would, necessarily, be irrelevant for all purposes. It might very well be a relevant consideration when deciding to give leave to act as a director of a particular company or companies pursuant to 17 of the Act.

But the period of pending proceedings could not be prayed in aid to reduce what would otherwise be the appropriate period of disqualification under section 6 of the Act.

Solicitors: Wragge & Co, Birmingham; Howell & Co, Birmingham.

Judicial review only remedy over road closure

The Great House at Sonning Ltd and Others v Berkshire County Council

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Hutchison

[Judgment March 14]

Persons directly affected by the proposed temporary closure of a road by a highway authority's order under section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 had no right in private law proceedings to challenge the order or its implementation on the basis that it was unfairly or unreasonably made. Such a claim was a public law claim and their only remedy was by way of judicial review.

The Court of Appeal so held (Lord Justice Saville dissenting) allowing an interlocutory appeal by the highway authority, Berkshire County Council, from a decision by Mrs Justice Steele on March 8, 1996, and ordering that the action in nuisance commenced by the plaintiffs, The Great House at Sonning Ltd, The Mill at Sonning Theatre Ltd and The French Horn Ltd, was an abuse of process and be struck out.

Mr Timothy Straker for the highway authority; Mr Jonathan Ferris for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON said that the judge granted an injunction prohibiting the highway authority from closing Thames Street, Sonning, to traffic on March 11, 1996, for a week. The need to close the road arose out of the implementation of a traffic calming scheme. The legal justification for the proposed closure was found in section 14 of the 1984 Act and an order made thereunder on February 12, 1996.

The plaintiffs, a large hotel, a theatre and a restaurant, were enterprises depending on forward planning and it was readily understandable why they were affected by road closures preventing or seriously restricting access to their premises.

They began proceedings by ordinary endorsed writ for an injunction and damages for nuisance caused by wrongful obstruction of a public highway.

The judge, having been referred to *Mohram Ali v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council* ([1993] QB 407), *Roy v Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster Family Practitioner Committee* ([1992] 1 AC 624, HL) and *O'Reilly v Mackman* ([1983] 2 AC 236, HL), rejected the higway authority's fundamental objection that the action was an abuse of process because in essence the claim was a public law claim only and ought to have been brought by way of judicial review.

She had held that the plaintiffs had a concurrent private law right, namely their right as persons directly affected by the closure to maintain an action in public nuisance, and that justified their proceeding by way of ordinary writ.

The contest in the case could be embodied in the following question: when an order such as one made under section 14 of the 1984 Act had been validly made, was its effect to prevent obstruction of the highway, in a manner permitted by the order, from constituting a public nuisance?

If the answer was that such an order did have that effect, then the plaintiffs were not entitled in private law proceedings to seek to impugn that order on the basis that it was unfairly or unreasonably made. Their only remedy was in proceedings for judicial review.

A prima facie valid order did not have to be justified in the manner contended for by the plaintiffs, that was to say that the highway authority had to refute all and any criticisms that might be made of their conduct in making or implementing the order before they could be heard to assert that they were not committing a public nuisance by their lawful obstruction of the highway in pursuance of it. The order prevented that obstruction from being a nuisance unless and until it was set aside.

There was thus no private law right that so long as the order stood the plaintiffs could assert. The case was one in which the plaintiffs' only remedy lay in public law proceedings because what they were essentially doing was attempting to challenge the validity of the order made under section 14. That was not permissible in an action such as the present.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE, dissenting, said that the highway authority's contention was misconceived. The plaintiffs were not seeking a public law remedy but relied on a private law right.

It was trite and ancient law that a person who could prove particular loss and damage over and above that sustained by the public at large for an obstruction to the highway had a private right to recover that loss and damage from the person responsible.

The highway authority's defence to the claim was that they had lawful authority to obstruct the road. The plaintiffs disputed that on the ground that the February 12 order, or the implementation of it, was in all the circumstances unreasonable and thus outside the powers relied on by the highway authority.

Thus it was well arguable that the plaintiffs were not seeking public law remedies or anything of that sort, but were merely alleging that the defence to their claim had no merit.

Their claim did not depend on proving that the highway authority was not authorised by statute to obstruct the highway but merely required proof that the public authority was threatening to obstruct the highway so as to cause them special damage.

That way of looking at the matter was supported by Lord Lowry's approach in *Roy v Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster Family Practitioner Committee* (at p653) approving of the broad approach to the question whether matters should be brought by way of judicial review or ordinary writ.

Turning to the merits of the matter, the judge was fully justified in granting an injunction in the circumstances of the case.

Lord Justice Nourse gave a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Hutchison.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co; Clintons.

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THE TIMES

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As the Queen begins her state visit to Poland and the Czech Republic, **Roger Boyes** and **Michael Knipe** present a two-page report

The lion, unicorn and tigers talk business

The Queen's state visit to Poland and the Czech Republic, which begins today, is being treated as an important gesture by the Central Europeans: a signal that the region is no longer in limbo between communism and the market, but rather has become a fixed part of democratic Europe.

Warsaw and Prague have been buzzing with excitement about the trip: aristocrats have been jostling with genteel determination for invitations to the royal banquets; gossip about the House of Windsor has invaded the trams, shops and factory canteens.

For obvious geopolitical reasons, British *Ostpolitik* — the policy of opening to the East — has always lagged behind Germany's. But Britain is one of the strongest advocates of eastward enlargement of the European Union and Nato. And Margaret Thatcher's idea of a "know-how fund" has given British policy a much-needed focus in the region; the fund has been helping to school and retrain the Central and East Europeans, to equip them for capitalism.

Partly as a result, British companies, with no tradition of eastern involvement, have gained a foothold in a historically difficult market. Bass, the brewery company, has moved into the Czech beer business in a big way, bringing its packaging and marketing skills together with the Czechs' long brewing traditions. While Butlin's, the leisure group, may open a holiday camp in Poland, Mills & Boon novelettes hold Polish and Czech housewives in their thrall.

The know-how fund has been complemented by other schemes, including the Prince of Wales Business Leaders' Forum — which brings together Western executives and Central European decision-makers. One result of this programme is that BOC has set up a highly successful welding school in Wroclaw in western Poland.

President Vaclav Havel (left) of the Czech Republic with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

The Prince is also involved in several important restoration projects in Prague. Together with President Vaclav Havel, he initiated and is patron of the Prague Heritage Fund, which was set up to finance the restoration and conservation of the city, and the English College.

All this represents a departure not only for Britain but for the Royal Family. In the words of one Polish commentator, the "Lion and the Unicorn are at last lying down with the economic tigers of central Europe".

Five or six years ago, as the two countries were emerging from under the rubble of the centrally planned economy, their tiger status was far from obvious. Poland was crippled by debt.

Czechoslovakia was in a better position, but it was also saddled with rusting, inefficient industries. The rise of Slovak nationalist politicians made a break-up of the country inevitable; the fragmentation of the Balkans and Soviet Union did not augur well for the Czechs and the Slovaks. In the turbulent days of 1989-90, Hungary seemed to be best-placed to succeed in the new Europe. Now, however, the Polish and Czech economies look stronger, although perhaps not quite as thrusting as they are sometimes depicted in the Western business press. Poland has brought inflation crashing down, but it is still expected to hover around 20 per cent this year. In the Czech Republic inflation has fallen below 10 per cent.

Both countries have powerful growth: a remarkable 6.5 per cent in Poland and 5 per cent in the Czech Republic. In some ways, the Czechs appear to have outstripped the Poles: their unemployment rate is much lower, and their private sector share of gross domestic product is far higher than anywhere else in the East.

The Czech Republic has been given membership of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, a membership that chiefly signals to Western investors that Prague is a good bet. Even so, for many investors Poland is the main magnet. With a population of almost 40 million, it is a large market with an appropriately big, well educated and relatively young workforce.

As in the Czech Republic, incomes are still low, as are social security contributions. That makes both countries interesting for foreign companies seeking a site to build new factories, distribution centres and supermarkets.

The Czech Republic, at the very centre of Central Europe, likes to emphasise that it is at the heart of a 570-million-strong consumer market and has solid manufacturing traditions. But Poland, with its coastline and long borders with both Germany and Russia, may have the edge. Geography, so often the bane of Polish history, is now coming to its aid.

Vaclav Klaus, the Czech Prime Minister, and Wlodzimierz Cimosewicz, his Polish counterpart, agreed recently that they would avoid any destructive competition in the drive to enter the EU. Membership was their common aim, but they were not insisting on joint entry, nor were they intent on outbidding each other.

The fact is that both countries realise there is still some time to spend in the waiting room, before Nato and the EU will take them on. The political key is to keep the European flame alive in their societies, to prevent disillusion about the West creeping in.

> The political key is to prevent disillusion about the West creeping in

Mr Klaus is already something of a Euro-sceptic, suspicious of centralised bureaucratic control from Brussels and very reluctant to sign up for a single currency. Czechs are becoming wary of Germany, traditionally their main champion in Europe: the question of whether or how to compensate the Sudeten Germans expelled from Czech lands still hangs heavy over the relationship between Prague and Bonn. The Poles remain more enthusiastic about Europe.

Poles and Czechs, for all their dynamism, have some catching up to do. Despite the glittering new boutiques and plate-glass hotels, they are poorer than the poorest of the EU member states. Even by 1999, the gross domestic product per head of the Czechs is expected to be barely half of the EU average. The real impact of Europe, or perhaps the modern world, can best be seen on the streets, rather than in dry balance sheets. Shops in both Prague and Warsaw open deep into the night — unthinkable in prosperous neighbouring Germany — and throughout the weekends. Shop assistants are even starting to smile.

Fast-food outlets are everywhere and the range of restaurants and cinemas in large cities matches those in the West. The jobs spawned in this way cannot wholly compensate for the loss of jobs in heavy industry, but the Poles are learning to live with high unemployment.

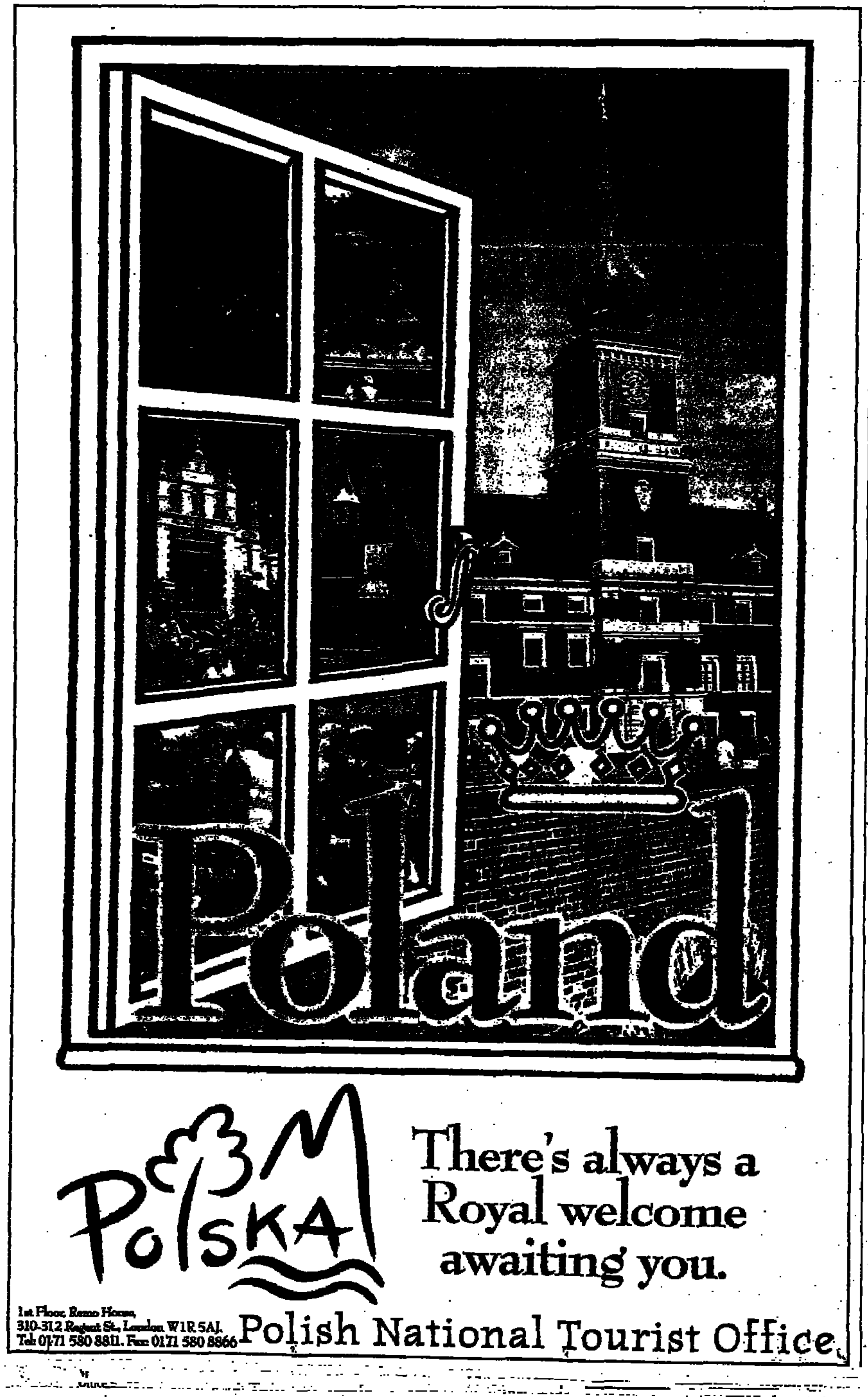
The old tradition of moonlighting, or of working (usually illegally) for short periods in the West, still keeps many families remarkably prosperous. The Czechs, in contrast and despite having privatised 80 per cent of the previously state-run enterprises, have virtually zero unemployment. However, with a pool of available labour in Slovakia, Ukraine and Poland, this is not at present deterring direct foreign investment.

Aleksander Kwasniewski, the formerly communist Polish President, and Vaclav Havel, the former dissident Czech President, met recently and though they have utterly different personalities and political pedigrees they seem to get on well. Mr Kwasniewski has remodelled himself on conventional Western lines... sun lamps, tennis and low-fat diets. Mr Havel is a chain-smoking reluctant politician who spent the best years of his life fighting communism and writing plays with a political edge.

Yet these men, both hosts of the Queen, share a kind of social democratic credo. They worry, it seems, about the victims of the transition from communism to capitalism. Mr Havel has found a voice on this, never failing to irritate the free-market Prime Minister Mr Klaus. Mr Kwasniewski has yet to find quite the right way to address his complex nation; but both politicians acknowledge that leadership in Central Europe means more than riding the back of the tiger.

RICHARD BAKER/KATZ

Cobbles, carriages, umbrellas and restored façades in the market square of old Warsaw, which was destroyed by the Nazis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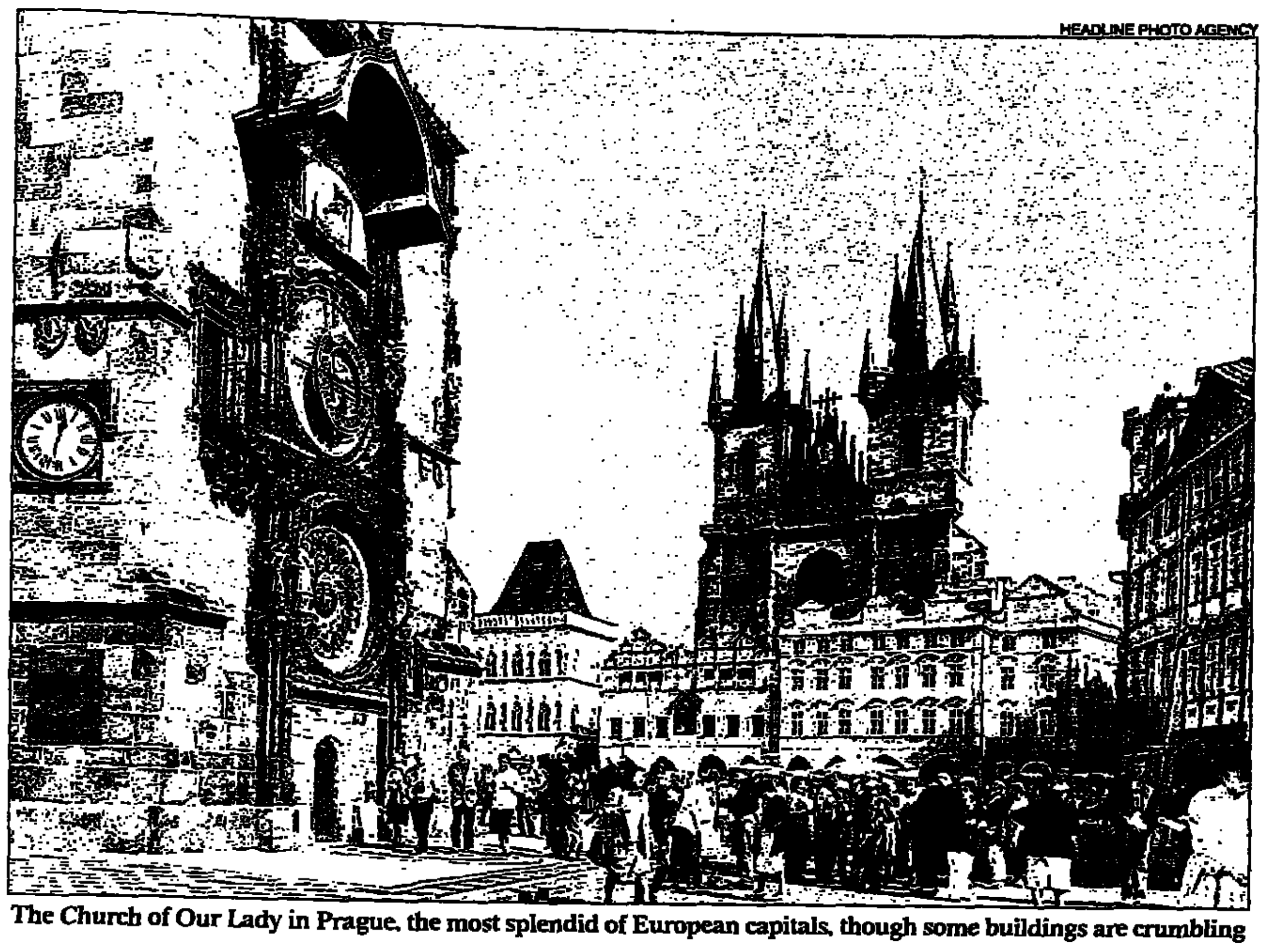
While disillusioned Poles have voted in former communist rulers, 60 per cent of Czechs are happy with their non-communist society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The Church of Our Lady in Prague, the most splendid of European capitals, though some buildings are crumbling

Embracing the market with eyes wide open

Six years after the "velvet revolution" that brought down the Communist regime, faith in the benefits of democracy and a competitive market economy remain firm in the Czech Republic, *Michael Knipe writes.*

"Yes, life is good," says Josef Skupa, a plasterer, sipping a beer in the U Kocoura pub in Prague's New Town quarter. "I am earning twice as much money for doing the same work. I have been to France and Germany on holiday and I can even buy a property abroad."

His views reflect opinion polls which show that 60 per cent of Czechs believe their society — headed by the socially concerned President Vaclav Havel and the pragmatically capitalist Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus — is moving in the right direction.

Foreign investors agree. They have sunk more than £5 billion into the Czech economy since 1989, with German and Swiss companies leading the list. The British are only ninth in line, with investments of less than £300 million but Bass, the brewery company, Bovis, the civil engineers, and Anglian Water are heading the investment drive, while Tesco has just purchased the K-Mart supermarket chain in the Czech Republic and Slovakia for £77 million.

Pensioners, public service workers and others on fixed incomes are less sanguine about the economic changes. For all the beauty of Prague's city centre, most Czechs live in unappealing tower blocks in drab suburbs, on an average wage of only 8,000 crowns (£200) a month.

Some complain bitterly that the centre-right Government of Mr Klaus is more Thatcherite than Baroness Thatcher was when Prime Minister. Indeed, in the almost wholesale privatisation of the economy, even the health service has been transposed to the private sector.

Czech pessimists also point to the trade deficit which last year reached £2.6 billion — five times the 1994 level — but the government and the Czech National Bank insist there is no cause for alarm, as more than half of the imports are capital goods to re-equip the nation's industries. Furthermore, they say, there will be no problem in sustaining a sizeable trade deficit for at least the next two years.

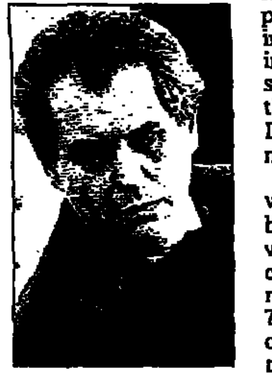
Government officials also dismiss expressions of concern about Czech industry's competitiveness. Although unit labour costs rose by 90 per cent between 1992 and 1994, they are still low by comparison with Western Europe. Officials like to cite the case of an international electronics company which, by moving its plant to the republic from Germany, was able to increase production by 50 per cent.

There are certainly signs of economic buoyancy everywhere in Prague, the most splendid of European capitals, even though many of its architectural gems are crumbling and much in need of repair, and the spires and domes of past centuries are being challenged by McDonald's and Coca-Cola signs.

Plastic sheeting is draped around the magnificient façade of the Municipal House, finest of the city's numerous art nouveau palaces, while it undergoes a £40 million refurbishment. Indeed, almost everywhere tourists have to focus their cameras carefully to avoid cranes or scaffolding intruding into their photographs.

When the Czech Republic was admitted to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) this year, it became the first former communist country to join the exclusive club of leading industrial nations. It is also the only Central European country from the former Soviet empire not to have elected former communists to power.

Richard Falbr, president of the Czech Council of Trade Unions, puts this down to the "overwhelming hatred of Czechs for the 20 years of hypocrisy and lies" they suffered under the puppet regime installed following the Soviet-led suppression of the reformist Dubček Government in 1968.


Milos Zeman: leading opponent

His words were borne out by the numbers who gathered recently to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the Bolshevik takeover in Russia. The crowd was only a hundred strong — and most of them were pensioners.

The next general election is scheduled for June, and although the ruling coalition headed by Mr Klaus's Civic Democratic Party (CDP) — which won a third of the votes last time — is expected to retain power, it is likely to do so with a reduced majority.

The party predicted to emerge from the election as the main opposition force is the Social Democratic Party (CSSD), which won only 6.5 per cent of the vote in the 1992 election but is now rated by opinion polls as having more than 22 per cent support. It is led by Milos Zeman, a witty and popular economist who pours scorn on the "economic miracle" of the past six years. He refers to the influx of foreign investment as the "colonisation" of the economy and says that privatisation has resulted in unclear ownership, besides attracting "dirty money" from international crime and drug syndicates.

Czech industry, says Mr Zeman, "is now majority-owned by the privatisation funds. These are majority-owned by the banks and the banks are majority-owned by the State. This is Czech privatisation! We live in the country of Franz Kafka and this is a good example of it."

However, Mr Zeman does not advocate reversing the privatisation process. Rather, he proposes that there should be more management buy-outs of companies and sales of company shares to employees. The social democracy of his party is firmly in the Western tradition.

The republic does still have a Communist party — the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) — which claims to be the successor, now committed to democracy, of the party that clung to power from 1948 to 1989.

Miloslav Ransdorf, its deputy chairman and a philosophy professor, was a boy of 15 when Soviet tanks crushed Alexander Dubček's Prague Spring reform movement. "The events of 1968 were my first historical experience," he says. "It was a tragedy for us and a crime against us. But it was carried out not by true communists, but by bureaucratic socialists."

Whatever the subsequent mistakes of the Communists, Mr Ransdorf believes the present Government is making bigger ones.

The KSCM still boasts a sizeable membership but its recent opinion-poll ratings were below 10 per cent and its prospects of increasing its vote are regarded as negligible.

"Political life in the republic is far more sophisticated than it is in the other former Eastern bloc countries," says one diplomat. "The parties are identified by ideas and are effectively part of the normal European political spectrum."

Distaste puts new old guard in power

Once, while waiting for a haircut and a shave, the Polish writer Antoni Slonimski was flicking through a magazine report about the funeral of the French Prime Minister Aristide Briand, who died in 1932, *Roger Boyes writes.*

The barber glanced at the pictures and said: "He stole what he could and then he died." This robust distaste for party politicians of any colouring has endured to the present. Soon after the 1989-90 upheavals, the daughter of a senior Solidarity politician eloped with the son of a worker: the politician was so enraged that he deployed the whole machinery of the police to track down the ill-starred couple. Six years on it would be the boy's father who would be miffed: no self-respecting worker wants to marry into a politician's family.

The distaste explains the current ascendency of the former Communist Party. The Social Democrats, as they are now known, are the heirs of the regimes that ran Poland for more than 40 years. In theory, the Social Democrats should therefore be repugnant to most of those who supported the Solidarity movement — nine million Poles at its peak.

In fact, the Social Democrats dominate parliament, run the Government and have successfully assured the election of one of their number to the presidency of Poland. Many reasons have been put forward — the longing for old certainties, a natural lurch to the left — but their true merit is that they are the least-political of Poland's parties. They are a management class garbed in political attire.

There have been several political zigzags over the past six years, but neither the lurch to the right, nor the lurch to the left has derailed market reform. The shakiest periods are when one or other of the small peasant parties holds the balance in a governing coalition, for they are the most wary of foreign investment and privatisation.

A vote for the former Communists was a vote for efficiency. Whether the party can meet these expectations is another matter.

It is certainly true that they have the only fully-fledged party machine, with solid finances and a regional structure that can unlock votes. It is also the case that the former Communists know how to network. Four decades of Central Committee sessions and local party manoeuvring have left their mark. When there are posts to be filled, the other parties scramble to find candidates. The Social Democrats, however, can position their man or woman quickly; they have a large reservoir of ambitious young people with the right kind of credentials.

Western observers have interpreted the November victory of President Kwasniewski as a fresh sign of a leftward drift in Central Europe. There is a justifiable suspicion about the former Communists. How communist are they? How former? But these questions miss the point. It is very difficult indeed to find any trace of a leftist policy in the Polish Government.

Jan Olszewski: making the running

Privatisation is being pushed ahead, fears about foreign investors expressed by the PSL Peasant Party (the junior coalition partner) are swept aside. It was a former Communist who started to get to grips with Poland's huge pensions problem — and this despite the fact that pensioners are the natural constituency of the former Communists.

Now, five or six years after the collapse of communism, mobile phones trill on every other restaurant table. If there is a discernible leftist approach, it is in the distance from (and often barely hidden contempt for) the Roman Catholic Church. The bishops are sure that the Social Democrats want to roll back some of the Church's gains of the past few years and, studying the party's daily newspaper, *Trybuna*, it is difficult to contradict the church analysts. So far, though, the anti-clerical instincts of the party have been kept in check. The election of President Kwasniewski may have helped in this respect, for he is committed to representing the whole of Poland.

The real danger lies not so much in the return of communism — since the Social Democrats are almost devoid of ideology — but in the centralising tendencies of the men in power. There is a definite trend to concentrate power at the top and to scratch away the authority of local government and the independence of intermediate institutions such as the universities, television and the press.

Television is a case in point. Many observers expected the President to make a grab for the control of television, since he has the technical right to nominate the State Broadcasting Authority. But he has not made such an obvious step. Instead, he has let natural forces come into play.

In the day-to-day management of state television an increasing number of decisions are being referred to a certain department head — a former Communist who was in place long before President Kwasniewski won the election. This bureaucrat is said to have a direct line to the presidential Chancellery. Power is thus being exercised behind the scenes; it is still too early, however, to make a judgment as to whether the independence of television is being seriously undermined.

President Kwasniewski promised his voters that he would preside over a "common Poland" and he has indeed been offering posts to politicians from the Solidarity camp. But, on the whole, the Solidarity-rooted parties have not shown any interest. So far, Lech Walesa, the defeated President, has refused even to enter the same room as the new President.

The former Solidarity hero says he will give the opposition parties until November to sort themselves out; if no progress is made, he will take the helm in time for the spring 1997 parliamentary elections. This would indeed be Mr Walesa's natural role: the champion of a united anti-Communist opposition. But the initiative is slipping away from him and more and more he seems to resemble a kind of Polish Don Quixote.

Instead, the doughty human-rights lawyer Jan Olszewski is making the running. He scored well in the presidential elections with around 10 per cent of the vote, a remarkable showing for a man whose brief premiership in 1992 was not covered with glory. Mr Olszewski is a credible figure — his anti-Communist record is impeccable — who will not be boxed into a corner by Mr Walesa. Moreover his big talent is in the forging of coalitions.

If Mr Olszewski's supporters can make common cause with the Solidarity trade union, then the Centre Right may be in with a fighting chance. But the smaller right-wing parties have a natural bent for internal squabbles. Mr Olszewski, or whoever becomes the standard bearer of the Centre Right, will have to transcend the in-fighting and work hard to polish the image of the Polish political class — for the lesson of the past 30 months is that Poles now share the view of Slonimski's barber.

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Ronald Faux presents a two-page report on the newly amalgamated University of Salford, product of 100 years of change

A merger of minds and a university challenge

The merger of University College Salford and Salford University as the University of Salford is a union of practical excellence and academic prestige. With a £100 million budget, formidable research and teaching resources, and 18,000 students, the new institution will become a powerful player among universities.

Merger became a logical move as government policy meant that in higher education there was strength in numbers and because there was already a high measure of co-operation and collaboration between the two centres.

Salford proudly remains an independent city, albeit absorbed by the giant sprawl that is Greater Manchester.

Competition for funding is likely to become keener. The work of the two Salford institutions is more complementary than overlapping, so the logic for a merger became overwhelming.

In one sense, the move has completed a circle. A hundred years ago today, the imposing red-stone Peel Building near the River Irwell at the Royal Salford Technical Institute was opened. The Industrial Revolution was booming in the mills of Manchester and Salford, and with it the thirst and need for education.

The technical institute became a technical college, which in 1958 divided according to government policy. One arm became the Royal College of Advanced Technology and ultimately the University of Salford, the other developed from a technical institute, then via Salford College of Technology to University College, Salford. The final merger after 75 years travelling on parallel paths takes place on August 1.

Professor Peter Wheeler, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and a project manager for the merger, says that though the college dealt with the vocational, practical side of higher education, the university concentrated more on traditional academic provision.

"The two campuses overlap," he explains. "But there is barely any overlap in the courses. In the 1980s we set up a federation between the two institutions ... our work is almost entirely complementary. Merger will give us an enormous resource base.

"The intention is that the merger should take place without any compulsory redundancies."

Many traditional university concepts will be quietly dropped into the Irwell as the new university gets into its stride. Students are referred to as customers, there is strong emphasis on developing research and partnership links with outside industry, and care is taken to design courses that will lead to a job. This is achieved by first researching and evaluating precisely what industry requires from its new recruits.

This hard-headed approach to learning is clearly appreciated by the "customers" because last year 30,000 applied for the 3,000 first-year places available. And as courses are designed to suit the market that will provide the jobs, so too access to courses is being arranged to accommodate a wider range of customers. This allows higher education to be spread across any number of years.

For example, a shipyard worker from Barrow-in-Furness invested all his redundancy in higher education and progressed through various qualifications to a degree that was awarded when he was aged 60.

At the opposite end of the age spectrum, there is help for graduates who may find themselves round shapes in a square world. With a strong accent on science, engineering and the practicalities of life, Salford operates a "gateway" programme for graduates who hold degrees in subjects that are so abstruse they evoke little interest from employers. Salford's five-week intensive business and management course, followed by a five-month placement in industry, helps to transform 80 per cent of them into successful wage-earners.

● *As part of the centenary celebrations, the university is trying to re-establish contact with any Salford graduates with whom it has lost touch. Contact 0161-745 5144.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BARRY GREENWOOD

Professor Tom Husband, the Vice-Chancellor, and below, the new high-tech building for the arts and design studies faculty

Industry wins a flexible friend

Piloting the merger of two institutions and taking account of the hopes, fears and career prospects of more than 2,000 staff is a delicate process. Much has been achieved through agreement and a sense of partnership, but ultimate responsibility for a successful union rests with Professor Tom Husband, the Vice-Chancellor of the university as it was and as it will be from next August.

His early career was almost a paradigm of the form he expects higher education to take in the years ahead. He left school at the age of 16 and began an apprenticeship as a marine engine fitter in a Clyde shipyard. Night school and a Higher National Diploma led to a course at Glasgow University at the age of 22 and the gateway to an academic career. Now aged 59, Professor Husband sees great potential in the new university structure. He said: "We will be stronger in our ability to interface with the real world, with industry, commerce and the public services. Such a broadly based university will prove flexible and responsive to changes in the market. A substantial percentage of our income will come from industry, making us less exposed to the whims and shifts of government policy."

'If you are equipped to serve you will win'

This partnership was the driving force in teaching and research activities, he said. Salford was at the leading edge of research in many areas, among them magnetics and optics, signal processing, building design, prosthetics and orthotics and virtual reality. The higher education scene had never been more promising, developing practical uses for the information superhighway, playing a part in technological and scientific advance and producing students equipped for a place in that challenging new world.

"There may be a temporary hiccup with a recession in student numbers but they are bound to grow and continue to grow with people becoming students in mid-career, taking up lifelong learning, attending top-up courses and continuing professional development: all distinct from the conventional basic degree programme," he says.

He said universities would be obliged to be more responsive and imaginative in offering courses that were shaped to demand and gave value for money. "Ten years ago the man in the street would be unlikely to put together his own pension plan portfolio, which now happens fairly commonly, and I think it will be the same in higher education, with students putting together their own course portfolios. If you are equipped to serve that market, you will be a winner."

John Squires, Principal of University College Salford and Deputy Vice-Chancellor-designate of Salford University, said the federal arrangement between the two institutions which began in the late 1980s had worked well and led to the merger. It had, he said, simply followed a review of the best way to offer higher education in the North West. "More people have become interested in what has happened at Salford and the new university could be taken as a policy case study for others to follow."

Though there was some overlap in science work and business and management studies, the college and university staffs were largely complementary. Economies of scale would come in a single residential service, single senior management, library and information services covering both institutions.

Mr Squires said: "We have had a single senior management team for a year now, so when merger happens we will hit the ground running."

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Where women sail to success

How Janet's epic voyage led to a unique research assignment in Tasmania among 25 strapping men

Salford has an excellent record of advancing the career prospects of women in male-dominated areas. Janet O'Brien, from Liverpool, went to Salford to study engineering — and found herself in Tasmania studying stability problems in a 250ft catamaran. She got there by yacht, having sailed it to Hobart.

Her studies led to her dissertation and a first-class honours degree, followed by work as a research student into magnetron sputtering.

"It is the practical side of engineering I enjoy," she says. "Engineering is an area in which women are outnumbered. In Tasmania there was me and 25 Australian men."

Ms O'Brien had included Salford on her Ucas form behind Oxford, Loughborough, Newcastle and Liverpool. She says: "I had acceptances from them all; but when I went to Salford and saw the facilities, and heard of the links with industry, I chose Salford."

Universities thrive on the publicity given to their successful work. Eye-catching courses and research are what spark the interest of a news editor and attract both students and funding. But how a story is chosen and handled may put a frown on donnish brows. As one professor ruefully admitted, a project must be "sexy" to grab headlines.

Several Salford research projects have caught the imagination, notably the work into virtual reality (VR), marked by the formation on campus of a National Centre for Virtual Environments. Research into VR at Salford began in 1988 and the centre comes from the partnership between the university and the locally based virtual reality division of Intelligent Systems Solutions, which has attracted £2 million in research and development grants for academic VR projects.

At Salford, research has focused on three broad VR areas: engineering, the built environment and bio-technology. Results are made available for commercial and industrial exploitation. The centre draws from a worldwide network of VR research and is now working on creating an "incredible shrinking man" illusion, allowing humans to experience life on a microscopic scale, and interacting with molecules and atoms.

Janet O'Brien, a postgraduate student engineer, sailed a catamaran to Tasmania

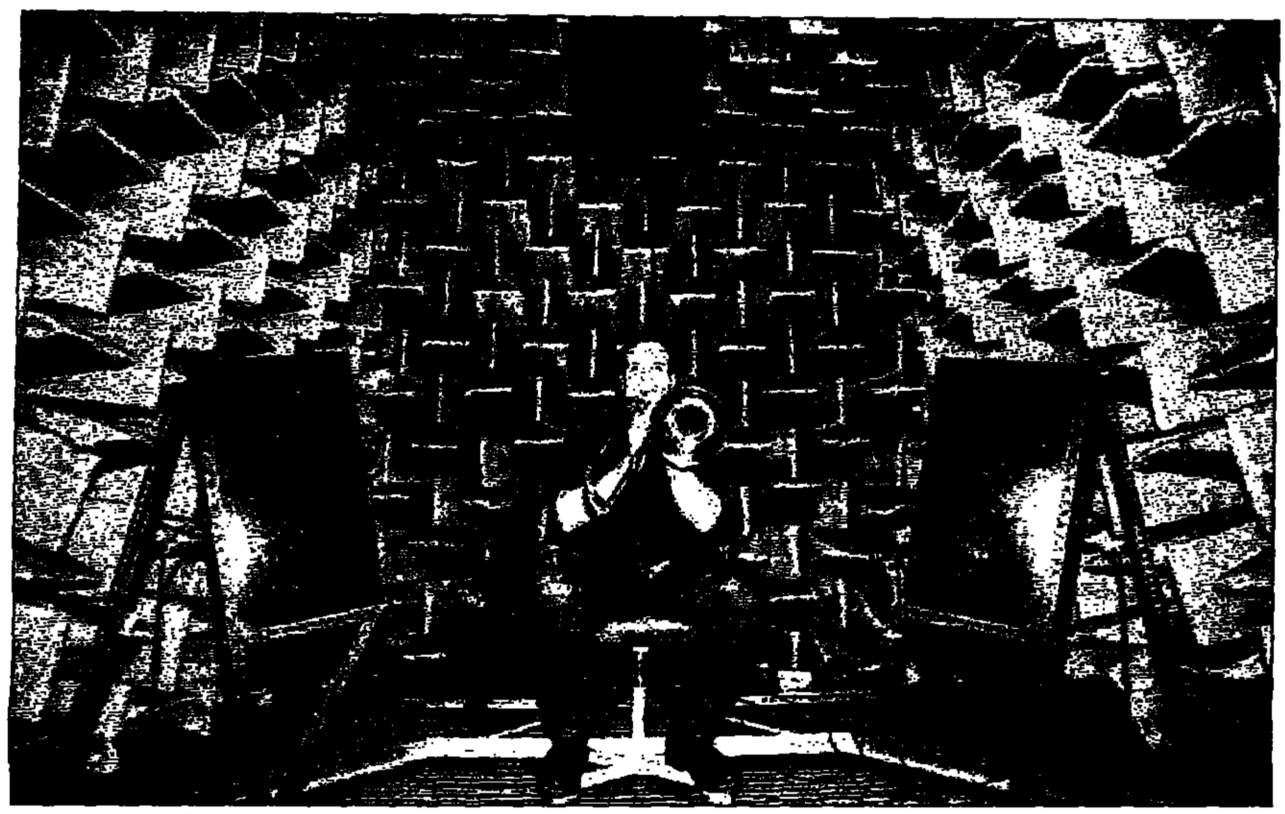
The Faculty of Media, Music and Performance has developed a lively demand for BA courses in popular music and recording and band musicianship, a Higher National Diploma in jazz and popular music, a university diploma in band musicianship and, with the Faculty of Engineering, a BSc course in music, acoustics and recording.

Media training was established with a joint university and college International Media Centre for research and analysis of global systems of communication and for establishing links between Britain, Eastern Europe and America. The Manchester Airport Chair of International Media, supported by a £250,000 grant from the airport, reflects the re-emergence of Greater Manchester as a media city and Salford's links with Granada Television, the BBC and Reuters Television.

Salford has won its bid to house the prestige National Centre for Business and Ecology. The four universities of Greater Manchester — Salford, Manchester, Umist and Manchester Metropolitan — worked with the Manchester-based Co-Operative Bank to establish the centre which has appeared at a time when pressure is mounting from consumers and legislators for industry to be more environmentally considerate.

The gaming industry offers good career prospects. The university's centre for studies in gambling and commercial gaming has been set up to research and encourage serious discussion of the industry.

Healthcare has developed as an important area of training and research at Salford since the recent move to the university of the Northern College of Nursing and Midwifery and the expansion of the department of prosthetics and orthotics into a national centre for the provision of artificial limbs and support devices for the disabled. An honours BSc course in this area is offered to students, who are assured of a career by the sad toll of injury caused by war, terrorism and accidents.


A researcher in concert hall acoustics studying the effects of reflected sound on instrumentalists, a Salford speciality

PATHWAYS TO CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY

As a horse might not drink when led to water, so students might not learn when they are taught. From this elementary truth, that individuals respond in multifarious ways to a variety of teaching methods, Salford has placed strong emphasis on offering a choice of pathways into courses and methods of presenting them.

Professor John Sanger, Pro-Vice-Chancellor in charge of teaching and learning, detected a fundamental change in the pattern of learning with a larger number of mature students entering higher education, whether for the first time or to equip themselves with new skills and knowledge. Others sought higher education from a non-academic base of "life experience" and the challenge for the new university would be to serve these different strands with courses which accommodate them without loss of quality.

As a result, Salford offers thick and thin sandwich courses mixing university study with industrial experience, and providing training to Higher National Diploma level, degree and higher degree level along with courses taught by every manner of means from traditional lecture to Gemisis 2000, the Government Educational, Medical, Industrial and Social Superhighway.

Undergraduate courses are in modular format, allowing students to select a broad range of subjects beyond the unchangeable "core" modules. Professor Sanger says: "The merger gives us the opportunity to broaden the range of subjects, which makes the university more attractive. At present there is a strong concentration on science and engineering and I think the merger will produce a much more balanced institution with a healthy awareness of attitudes and the way that students are taught."

By 2000 16 per cent of school leavers will be studying for General National Vocational Qualifications which give a different qualification for higher education than A levels. But with competition intensifying between universities, they will find it difficult to recruit students by simply sending them a prospectus and expecting them to fit into a fixed offering.

Salford is rallying to the need to provide tailored courses at acceptable costs based on modules and short courses. The 2 plus 2 model sandwich course was started at Salford and copied by many. "We have moved on from that to more detailed partnerships to harmonise the curriculum," Professor Sanger says. The university has won prizes from the Partnership Awards scheme.

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In 1994 Salford restructured its research activities into six multidisciplinary research institutes. Professor Peter Brandon, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for research, says collaboration between departments is paying off. Salford is now able very quickly to put together a multidisciplinary team to handle industrial problems.

This pool of expertise is invariably in practical areas of direct use to industry in product development or, for example, in the non-clinical side of the NHS. About 1,000 postgraduate students work on a vast range of subjects. The Graduate School forms part of the Research and Graduate College and is responsible at faculty level for all postgraduate programmes, both by the taught and the research routes.

The university worked hard to be pro-active. The Design, Manufacturing and Marketing division, for example, is a product development group working for industry. The Construct IT centre based at Salford University has become the implementation body for the Government's information technology strategy for the UK construction industry. About 60 leading companies along with seven other universities are co-operating in the initiative.

Construct IT is one of a number of national centres located at Salford. The centres for Business and Ecology and Virtual Environments are both gaining prestige and financial backing as they demonstrate beneficial ways in which industrialists and academics can be brought together.

Another example is the success of the ultra-low energy ion implanter Salford helped to develop and build as part of a £2.2 million collaboration with Loughborough University and a private company. Sales of the equipment have already far exceeded expectations.

The biophysics group at Salford brought new technology to the market via Photonic Research Systems, set up jointly with Salford University Business Services (SUBS) to market a range of new fast modulated light sources and imaging systems for analytical fluorescence applications.

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,262.90	Allied Domecq	508	+ 27½	5.8	18.4
305.70	Bulmer (HP)	579	+ 10	2.7	18.2
69.40	Burn Stewart	117		5.3	25.2
9,080.00	Grand Met†	434	+ 10½	4.3	18.7
9,441.20	Guinness	466	- 1½	4.1	15.5
463.50	Highland Distil	348	+ 1	2.8	15.8
192.50	Macallan-Glen	164	+ 3	1.0	36.4
86.70	Mardn Mnta 'A'	633	.	2.2	17.6
634.00	Matthew Clark†	718	+ 19	3.8	
11.10	Merydown W	102	.	2.5	
6,645.40	SA Breweries	2258½	.	1.5	32.3

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
9,573.40	ABN-AMRO	3168½	+ 37½	4.0	11.9
7,596.80	Abbey Natl	575	+ 36½	4.7	11.0
2,213.00	Allied Irish†	329	+ 3	4.4	.
4,446.90	Aus New Z	330	+ 1	5.2	
16,888.90	Bank America	4825	+ 68½		
2,998.30	Bank Scotland	253½	+ 8	3.0	11.2
11,635.00	Barclays†	735	+ 39½	4.4	8.5
2,063.20	Bk of Ireland	429	+ 9	4.0	8.6
145.70	Cater Allen	450		6.3	7.4
24,742.60	Citicorp	5112½	- 25		
450.00	Close Brost	371	+ 22	3.0	16.5
5,261.30	Commerzbk	£147	+ 12½	3.6	
38,854.30	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1243½	- 18½	0.4	..
15,854.70	Deutsche Bk	3334½	+ 84½	2.2	
167.20	Espirito Santo	781½	+ 9½	4.6	10.4
39,804.60	Fuji Bank Y	1375	- 41	0.4	.
197.60	Gerrard Nat	404	+ 2	7.0	13.0
412.20	Hambros	233	.	4.0	
8,816.60	HSBC	1024	+ 46	4.0	11.6
17,821.00	HSBC Hr	1004	+ 43	4.1	11.3
321.80	Irish Perm†	386	+ 1	3.3	.
40.10	King Shaxson	152	+ 1	7.4	11.8
23.90	Leopold J	450		5.2	15.5
16,103.50	Lloyds TSB†	316½	+ 22	3.1	17.0
8,659.90	Nat Aust Bk	596	- 1	7.0	7.9
11,471.30	Nat West†	647	+ 37½	4.9	9.1
39.50	Rea Brothers	59	- 1	2.1	
4,221.00	Ryl Bk Scot	522	- ½	3.9	11.8
1,869.40	Schroders	1238	+ 49	1.6	17.2
419.30	Schroders N/V	953	+ 13	2.1	13.2
200.40	Singer & Fried	101½	- ½	5.0	7.9
5,965.50	Stand Chart†	615	+ 12½	2.2	13.4
26.30	Union†	99	+ 1	3.8	
8,264.40	Wells Fargo	£161½	+ 312½	1.9	.
5,961.70	Westpac	373½	+ 11½	4.5	
26.10	Wintrust	304	.	4.8	17.4

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
223.80	Brammer	403	+ 6	3.4	19.0
5.78	Bridgend Gp	21	+ 1	1.2	
18.60	Brit Fittings	78	+ 1	5.1	11.8
9.24	Calyx	280		5.1	19.3
29.80	Cavendale	11½	...	3.1	7.5
9.73	Control Mr	71	+ 2	0.9	
32.90	Charles Sidney	79		5.9	12.4
24.50	Cook (DC)	57	+ 1	3.7	8.3
564.60	Cowie	350	+ 12	3.8	13.0
30.20	Dag Motors	175	+ 2	7.2	10.3
28.90	Dennons El	163	+ 8	2.0	14.7
229.30	Diploma	410	+ 4	4.4	15.3
1,449.70	Electrocomps	342	+ 6	2.2	23.2
176.40	Eurodis Elect	301	+ 17	1.8	29.1
51.00	Eurodollar	104	.	9.4	6.3
44.00	European Mtr	82	+ 2	7.9	7.0
102.40	Evans Halshaw	319	+ 8	6.7	...
846.30	Farnell Elect	620		2.0	18.0
9.77	Fife Indmar	63		6.4	10.3
23.10	Gartmert†	21½		4.9	8.6
19.50	Glenchewton	64½	+ 2½	0.6	.
8.10	Gowrings	88		3.2	14.6
27.20	Harris (Philip)	250	+ 5	3.7	15.9
118.10	Headlam▲	225	+ 7	2.3	20.4
325.70	Henlys†	618	+ 21	2.4	18.1
4.52	Holders Tech◇	145	+ 9	5.2	27.6
70.40	ISA Intl	176		1.7	
1,383.60	Inchcape	262	+ 4	7.2	23.8
4.10	Jacks (Wm)	38	- 3	2.5	7.2
390.40	Kwik-Fit	207½	+ 11½	3.1	14.3
354.00	Lex Service†	313	+ 2	6.0	11.4
43.10	Lookers▲	129		8.0	
21.20	Malaya Gp	13	.	6.5	..
48.70	Middlesex◇	7¼	- ¼	0.8	17.8
21.10	Midstates	40	+ 3		
53.00	Norton	570	+ 15	1.8	17.3
42.00	Northamber	347		0.9	19.8
13.10	PCTC	147		6.5	10.5
107.50	Pendragon†	280		4.0	14.2
45.30	Perry Gp	179	+ 2	5.8	.
34.40	Quicks Group	149		4.8	12.7
19.70	REA	215	+ 20	2.3	25.6
4.43	Reece	2½	.	..	...
22.00	Ronson	49		3.2	10.0
4.06	Ross Gp	2¾			
45.00	SEP Indl	50	- 1½	4.0	11.7
38.30	Saltire	14	- ¼	.	8.0
152.20	Time Products	285	+ 9	4.1	16.7
6.64	Toner Hire	40	+ 10½	4.0	
129.90	Vardy (Reg)	277	+ 2	2.7	15.3
50.80	Wholesale Ftgs†	356		4.2	18.9
38.70	Wilshaw	41		2.4	9.7
58.00	Wyko†	110	..	2.0	..
19.10	Young (H)	175		4.2	13.4

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
115.40	Quadramatic	240	+ 5	4.2	14.8
5.62	Quadrant Gp	15		2.1	41.9
0.88	Radiant Metal	65			
91.10	Ransomes	66	.	...	18.3
22.60	Record	66	+ 5	7.1	
192.20	Renold	288	+ 1	2.5	15.1
2.77	Richards Group	33	.	8.5	9.8
31.80	Richardson West	88	+ 8	6.3	...
3,214.90	Rolls-Royce	219	+ 5½	2.9	35.8
180.50	Rotork	206	+ 19	3.3	
140.90	Rubicon†	167		4.1	16.6
956.70	SKF 'B'	1500	- 53½	3.4	
320.30	Senior Eng	106	+ 2	4.1	37.5
38.30	[illegible]	244	+ 36	1.6	
3,715.10	Siebe†	866	+ 22	1.8	23.9

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
111.10	Candover	496	+ 1	3.4	
122.50	Central Euro Gwth†	61½	+ 1½	0.9	
46.60	Conti Assets†	213	+ 5	1.6	78.4
4.89	Dane Inv Inc	67		14.9	7.8
51.10	Derby Cap	333	+ 5		
16.80	Derby Inc	142	- 1	17.0	7.3
221.40	Dunedin Inc G	682	- 4	5.1	
17.80	Dunedin Japan	87½	+ 2		
55.90	Dunedin Smlr	333	+ 3	3.4	42.8
1.48	Dunedin Wts	18½	+ ½		
279.70	Dunedin Wwde	835	+ 17½	1.4	72.8
289.90	Edin Dragon	107½	+ 1½	..	...
22.40	Edinburgh Inca	27½	+ ½		
959.30	Edinburgh	326½	+ 6½	3.7	31.5
36.80	EFM Japan	156½	+ 1½	..	
638.70	Electra Inv	368	.	2.5	59.9

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
0.66	Murray Ex Wts	11	+ 1		
325.80	Murray Incomet	378	+ 5	4.0	31.1
405.60	Murray Intl	404	..	3.9	29.3
11.60	Murray S/C DP	182	+ 1	..	...
7.67	Murray S/C Cap	137	+ 1		
5.36	Murray S/C Inct	67		20.4	6.2
1.49	Murray S/C Ulst	2875	- 25	0.5	
272.60	Murray Small	486	+ 1	1.2	..
90.30	Murray Vent	365	...	4.2	29.6
5.07	Newmarket	14			
20.50	Nthrop Inc	52½	- ½	11.5	11.5
15.60	Nthrop Cap	63			
145.90	O'seas Inv Tst	383	+ 2	1.1	...
3.32	O'seas Wts	185	+ 1		
179.30	Pacific Assets	138	+ 2	0.3	
29.70	Perpetual Jap	81½	- ½		

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
396.28	Dorling Kind	575	+ 78	0.9	40.6
1,277.40	EMAP	618	+ 11	2.2	24.0
6,353.60	Elsevier	986½	- 1½	2.4	...
279.90	Euromoney Pb	1283	+ 20	4.2	25.7
10.60	Fitch	29½	+ 2½		19.4
562.90	Flextech◇	508	- 4		
52.90	GGT Group†	198	- 2	3.4	15.2
171.70	GWR Gp†	246	- 4	1.1	32.6
23.90	Gearhouse Group	218	+ 10	2.5	14.3
10.10	Goodhead	25		0.5	...
80.60	Grampian	248	- 2	2.4	21.3
315.40	HTV Group†	380	- 3	1.3	...
44.50	Haynes Pblst	285	+ 11½	4.4	13.8
6.66	Highbury Hse	21		..	...
79.20	Hodder H'line	225	+ 1	3.3	13.9
16.50	Home Counts	165		4.2	18.8

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
62.30	INVESCO Tokyo	55½	+ 1½	...	.
20.50	J Fry 2nd Ut	70½	+ 1	12.1	8.8
7.35	J Fry Euro Ut	69	.	8.0	12.6
143.60	JF Fledg Jap	228	+ 3	.	
27.50	Jupiter Eu Inc	74	- 3	13.2	6.1
0.24	Jupiter Eu IncW	4	- 1		.
27.40	Jupiter Intl Gwt	109	- 4	4.3	.
213.80	Kleinwt Chrtl	264	+ 8½	2.6	46.6
34.70	Kleinwt E Mkt	122½	+ ½	.	.
41.90	Kleinwt End	138½	+ ½		

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
161.80	First Choice†	68		7.1	..
636.40	First Leisure†	389	- 7	2.5	22.6
3,321.50	Forte†	350	+ 1	3.0	25.1
29.20	Friendly Hotels	146		4.9	17.1
6,209.80	Granada†	728	.	2.0	17.6
14.20	Hi-Tec Sports	28		5.7	
15.80	Hornby◇	190	- 7	3.3	16.3
119.00	Hozelock	500	- 2	2.2	19.4
86.20	Jarvis Hotel	226½	+ 7½	3.5	14.5
62.80	Kunick	27	+ ¼	2.8	22.7

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SHARP
INTELLIGENT THINKING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
442.60	Kleinwt Euro Prvt	88½	+ 1	3.2	38.1
21.50	Kleinwt Euro Wts	21½	+ 1½	.	.
24.00	Kleinwt H Inct	80	+ 3	13.4	8.6
226.60	Kleinwt O'seas†	282½	+ 6	1.6	
20.50	Kleinwt Smlr	156	+ 4	2.7	
134.00	Korea—Euro	5454	+ 4½	0.1	
92.90	Latin American	109½	+ 2½		
227.50	Law Debenture	998	+ 1	2.9	.
26.30	Lloyds Sm Cap	107	+ 4		
6.50	Lloyds Sm Dvrt	26½	+ 1½	18.2	.
32.60	Lloyds Sm Pkgt	133	+ 4	3.6	

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
2,244.60	Ladbroke†	192½	+ 6½	3.9	31.2
360.40	London Clubs	509	+ 2	3.4	18.2
156.90	Man Utd	258	- 23	2.2	10.8
572.30	Mandarin Ortl	81½		4.4	17.5
51.60	Northern	107	+ 5	4.8	11.9
10.50	Prism Leisure	124	+ 8	5.1	8.6
20.30	Queensborough	31	- 2		
80.20	Queens Moat	20¾	+ ¼		
4,173.90	Rank Org	501	+ 5	3.4	13.7
23.60	Ryan Hotels 'E'	36		4.5	12.6
376.90	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1318	+ 3	1.3	52.4

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Abtrust Latin American Inv Tr, Groupe Chez Gerard, Lincat Group, Prolific Income, Tay Homes, UDO Holdings. **Finals:** Alexon Group, Bourne End Properties, Caldwell Investments, Capital & Regional Props, Dmatek, Forth Ports, Hodder Headline, How Group, Inchcape, IoM Steam Packet Co, John Mansfield Group, Moorfield Estates, Morgan Crucible, MTM, Nestor-BNA, New Guernsey Secs Tr, Newport Hldgs, Michael Page Gp, Plasmec, Scotia Hldgs, Simon Engineering, Taylor Nelson AGB, Tele-Cine Cell Gp, Thompson Clive Invs, Travis Perkins, T&S Stores, Vero Gp, Waterford Foods.

TOMORROW

Interims: Baillie Gifford Japan Trust, , Burn Stewart Distillers, Gearhouse Group, IAWS Group, Lloyd Thompson Group, Manchester United, Millwall Hldgs, Pressac Hldgs, Scottish Metropolitan Property, Scottish Oriental Smaller Companies Tr, Upton & Southern Hldgs, Wescol Group. **Finals:** American Tr, Arcolectric (Hldgs), Barr & Wallace Arnold Tr, Booth Industries Gp, Camas, Capital Industries, Charter, Churchill China, Clinical Computing, Country Casuals Hldgs, Cussins Property Gp, EBC Gp, Emerald Energy, FBD Hldgs, Fitch, Glenchewton, Golden Vale, Hamleys, Lamont Hldgs, Meggitt, P&O, Servomex, Speciality Shops, Taylor Woodrow, Thornton Asian Emerging Markets Inv Tr, United Carriers, Wolstenholme Rink, Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines. **Economic statistics:** GDP (Q4), balance of payments (Q4).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Barratt Developments, Bridport-Gundry, Frederick Cooper, Graystone, HTR Japanese Smaller Companies Tr, F W Thorpe. **Finals:** Asda Property Hldgs, Bowthorpe, Brake Bros, British Fittings Gp, Cakebread Robey & Co, Caradon, Croda International, Datrontech Gp, Epwin Gp, EW Fact, Fife Indmar, Grampian Hldgs, Healthcall, Higgs & Hill, Independent Newspapers, Johnston Press, J N Nichols (Vimto), Quicks Gp, Alexander Russell, Rutland Trust, Sherwood Gp, Silvermines Group, Tibbett & Britten, TLS, Transtec. **Economic statistics:** gilt auction (£3 billion Treasury 7 per cent 2001), capital expenditure (Q4 — revised), stocks (Q4 — revised).

THURSDAY

Interims: Dowding & Mills, Edinburgh Dragon Trust, Estates & Agency Hldgs, F&C US Smaller Cos, MY Hldgs, Trafford Park Estates. **Finals:** All London Props, Andrews Sykes Group, Arnotts, Ash & Lacy, Ayrshire Metal Products, William Baird, BLP Group, Blue Circle Industries, Booker, Brammer, Bridon, Horace Clarkson, Eyecare Products, Gaskell, Graseby, Kingspan Group, Johnston Group, Macfarlane Group (Clansman), Martin Currie Pacific Tr, Wm Morrison Supermarkets, Next, Norcor Holdings, Portmeirion Potteries (Hldgs), QS Holdings, Queens Moat Houses, Redland, RJB Mining, Roskel, Senior Engineering, Slough Estates. **Economic statistics:** new vehicle registrations (February), 1995 government deficit and debt under Maastricht treaty, engineering turnover and orders (January), mortgage lending by major British banks (February).

FRIDAY

Interims: GR (Hldgs), TR Far East Income Tr. **Finals:** Bardon Group, Brixton Estate, Calor Group, Crane Europe, Garton Engineering, Hunting, Inch Kenneth Kajang Rubber, Stanford Rook Hldgs, Streamline Hldgs, Unicorn International. **Economic statistics:** global trade balance (January), non-EU trade balance (February), M4 money supply (February — final), consumer credit (February).

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

Tunnel muddies water for P&O

P&O: Tomorrow's annual profits from P&O, where Lord Sterling of Plaistow is at the helm, are expected to show the scars on the shipping-to-property group's ferries operation of the first full year of competition from the Channel Tunnel.

Mark McVicar at NatWest Securities has pencilled in a fall in final pre-tax profits to £305 million (£341.4 million), with a maintained dividend of 30.5p predicted, barely covered by earnings of 33.3p (37.6p) a share. Market forecasts range from £290 million to £320 million after a £5.7 million exceptional gain.

In addition to fare wars on P&O's ferries, profits will be hit by a poor performance from the container shipping business, hurt by fierce competition and lower dollar exchange rates as well as higher fuel costs. Matters are not helped by the fact that conditions remain far from easy for the group's Bovis construction arm.

In the first half, the container business saw operating profits fall to £15.3 million (£26.8 million), while the ferry business saw first-half operating profits slip to £24.8 million (£30.7 million). Analysts are braced for the impact of the Channel Tunnel, so attention will focus on whether the company will cut some £2 billion of debt with a major disposal. There has been market talk that P&O may sell some of its property portfolio and buy some of its own shares to cut its dividend bill. There is also speculation about the possible purchase of Trafalgar House's prestige Cunard operation, which includes the QE2 liner.

Lord Sterling has a hard course to steer as the Channel Tunnel takes its toll on P&O

INCHCAPE: A large question mark hangs over the level of dividend that will be paid when the group unveils its full-year figures today. Brokers such as UBS are cautious and are forecasting a cut to around 10p (15p). Inchcape had a difficult time of it last year with profits tumbling along with the share price, which started the year at 400p and ended at 270p. Insult was added to injury when the group was dropped as a constituent of the top FT-SE 100 companies.

The new chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, will no doubt be hoping for better things in 1996, but first he must overcome today's hurdle, with brokers having already forecast a near-40 per cent plunge in pre-tax profits to £142 million. Market forecasts range from £140 million to £145 million. Clearly Sir Colin faces an uphill battle, with little sign of recovery on the horizon. The only bright spot is that the current strength of the Japanese yen should assist cost-cutting.

KINGFISHER: The retailing group, whose empire spans Woolworth's to Comet stores, is expected to unveil a return to profit growth when it reports on Wednesday.

UBS is looking for Kingfisher to turn in pre-tax profits of £280 million (£244.2 million), with a dividend of 16p (15.2p). Market forecasts range from £275 million to £285 million. The B&Q do-it-yourself chain is expected to turn in lower profits as it is still thought to be experiencing harsh trading conditions. However, analysts are hoping for signs of a slight turnround at B&Q, along with better trading at the Comet electricals business.

NEXT: The fashion retail chain is expected to see full-year profits, due on Thursday, expand by about a fifth. NatWest expects final pre-tax profits to rise to £123 million (£102.3 million). Market forecasts range from £122 million to £128 million.

The Next Directory home shopping side of the business is said to have benefited from a 24 per cent advance in sales and better trading margins. Apart from current trading and prospects, analysts will be looking for comments from Next on whether it will be expanding overseas, particularly in the US.

TRAVIS PERKINS: Today's figures from the builders' merchant kick off results from a clutch of leading building-related companies. Travis Perkins is likely to be hit by the downturn in the housing market. NatWest is looking for full-year profits to dip to £35.5 million (£38.9 million). Market forecasts range from £33 million to £37 million. A maintained dividend of 9p is expected.

CARADON: The bathroom products group has already warned the market about poorer trading and it will be no surprise if its profits plunge when the company announces results on Wednesday. The UK and continental European markets are expected to follow the US, where markets have seen a severe downturn. BZW has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £150 million (£201 million) before exceptionals, which analysts expect to amount to between £25 million and £30 million. Market forecasts range from £135 million to £165 million.

REDLAND: The building materials giant is in line for a profits slip on Thursday amid its plans to restructure. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull expects a £4 million dip in pre-tax profits to £369 million. Market forecasts range from £342 million to £370 million. The downturn in the German housebuilding market will be partly to blame and this will dent trade at the group's Braas subsidiary.

BLUE CIRCLE INDUSTRIES: The cement and home products group unveils full-year figures on Thursday, midway through a big reorganisation.

Blue Circle is rationalising its bathroom and heating products business while building up its production facilities in Britain and on the Continent. The traditional side of the business is also undergoing change with brokers reporting a slowdown in demand for cement from developing countries.

Even so, Goldman Sachs expects the group to hoist pre-tax profits to £265 million. Market forecasts range from £260 million to £277 million (£184.4 million), with a 6 per cent rise predicted in the dividend to 12.5p (11.75p). Goldman expects to see gains in the heavy building materials unit, with an increase to £245 million (£197 million), but forecasts a fall-back in home products to £48 million (£67 million), with property down to £5 million (£11 million).

QUEENS MOAT HOUSES: The hotels group has had a torrid couple of years and on Thursday the extent of any recovery will be revealed. Queens Moat is bound to suffer a hangover from a £1.8 billion debts mountain that required a long drawn out financial rescue by a group of banks. UBS thinks that Queens Moat will have made a £35.7 million loss last year, compared with £95.2 million in 1994. There will again be no dividend.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus falls on the Fed

The main focus for the financial markets this week will be key monetary meetings in America and Germany. The Federal Open Market Committee starts its meeting in Washington tomorrow. Most analysts believe that the Fed will opt to leave US interest rates unchanged given the shock news of strong employment figures in February which sent the markets reeling. US data this week will be watched closely as the debate on the strength or weakness of the economy continues. Chief among these will be consumer confidence and durable goods orders tomorrow and Wednesday respectively.

In Germany, the Bundesbank's policy-making council meets on Thursday. Debate continues to rage about whether official German interest rates will be lowered given evident weakness in the economy. However, strong M3 numbers in February have cast some doubt on whether the German central bank will move. Nigel Richardson, head of bond research at Yamaichi International Europe, noted that several council members have been quick to point out that the M3 figure may not stand in the way of a future reduction in rates.

There is also interest in developments in the Japanese economy, given the recent release of stronger than expected growth figures for the end of last year which prompted speculation that Japan will tighten monetary policy. Figures this week include industrial production, consumer spending, construction orders and housing starts.

In Britain, the main statistics include institutional investment for the fourth quarter, published today, and detailed figures for the fourth-quarter balance of payments and gross domestic product, released tomorrow. Final GDP growth is expected to be unchanged from the previous estimate of 0.5 per cent, giving a year-on-year growth rate in the fourth quarter of 1.9 per cent. On Friday, figures for February trade with non-European Union countries are released along with January trade with the whole world, February consumer credit and revised M4 money supply figures.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy RJB Mining, SIG, Moorfield Estates, Beauford. Avoid P&O. *Independent on Sunday:* Buy Williams Holdings, Rackwood Minerals, Peptide Therapeutics. Avoid Babcock International. Sell Gowrings. *The Sunday Telegraph:* Buy Electrophoretics, Williams Holdings, Sutcliffe Speakman, Wellington, Perkins, Bardon. *The Observer:* Buy Unitech, Psion. *Mail on Sunday:* Buy Meggitt.

Shareholders 'face £4bn gas bill'

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

SHAREHOLDERS will be left to pick up the bill of up to £4 billion for British Gas's take-or-pay contract liabilities, because the company's demerger will not solve the problem.

That is the warning from Oxera, the forecasting and research organisation, which today produces a review of the biggest shake-up in energy organisation since the disbanding of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

The demerger of British Gas isolates the long-term commitments to buy gas at a higher price than it can sell it for within the British Gas Energy half. So far customers have had to hear some of the cost of the contracts under the pricing formula. Once there is full competition in the gas market, that cannot happen.

British Gas will either have to cut its prices severely to compete with cheaper rivals, or lose a massive amount of market share. Either way, its revenue will drop.

Barring the unlikely event of the Government riding to the rescue, or North Sea producers relinquishing the lucrative supply deals struck with British Gas, the burden will fall to shareholders, Oxera concludes .

Further foes — multi-utilities which gain efficiencies from shared operations and information technology bases — face the company, which still has not announced a pricing strategy for the South West competitive market.

British Gas could potentially sweep up, as the only national multi-utility, if it pushes into the open electricity market in 1998 should its national consumer base survive at a significant level.

However, the regional electricity companies have a head start because of the different timings of the two energy markets. Electricity companies can now jump into the opening gas market, while maintaining their local monopolies of domestic consumers.

Oxera offers some hope for British Gas Energy's ability to hold its head above water amid full-blown competition in energy. It says the company is well-placed to take advantage of the multi-fuel market after 1998.

☐ British Gas today creates a new executive position to counter criticism over its customer service. The company has appointed David Brooks as managing director for quality and customer service. He moves from British Gas Retail, where he was managing director.

Last year complaints about British Gas more than doubled, jumping to the highest level since privatisation. Nearly 50,000 customers took grievances to the Gas Consumers Council, the industry watchdog, in 1995, a 102 per cent rise on the previous year.

THE TIMES

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EU finds support in mid-range

Half of entrepreneurs and owner-managers who run Britain's middle-sized independent companies see the European Union as an opportunity for their businesses, with only 8 per cent considering it a threat.

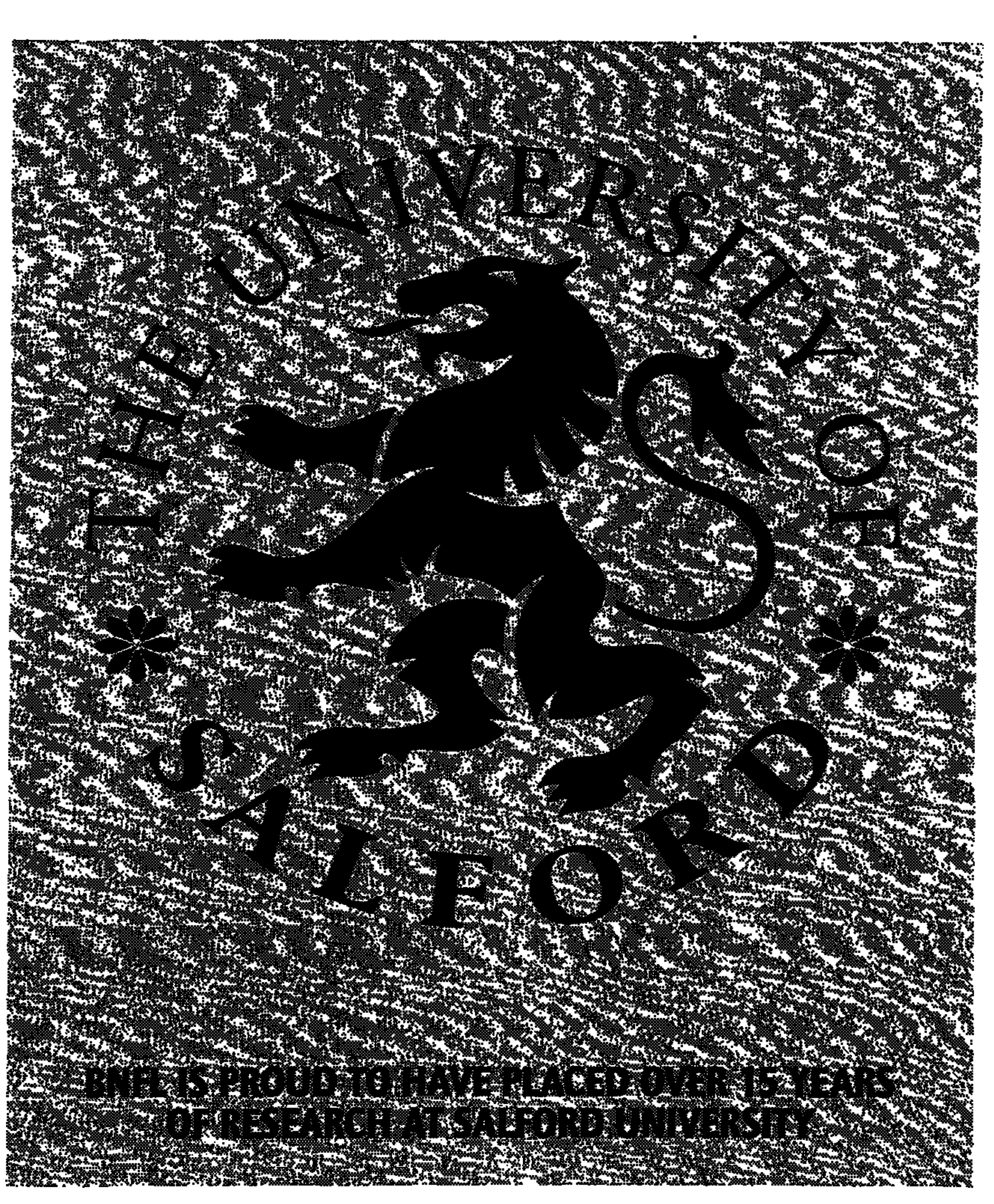
However, opinion on a single currency is split, with 37 per cent in favour and 36 per cent opposed, according to a MORI survey, sponsored by 3i, the venture capital group, late last year. It indicates that nearly two thirds of owner-managers work at least 50 hours per week.

Euro aid hope

The European Commission is next week expected to clear most of a package of state aid planned by the UK authorities for Ford's Jaguar car plant. British sources said that, while it has cut regional aid for the plant to £40 million from £48 million, it will find other ways to keep the total package at £80 million.

Drug result

Vanguard Medica, the drugs company, is today expected to confirm completion of a successful initial Phase II clinical study with VML 251, the anti-migraine compound.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Sara McConnell reports on proposed changes to tenants' rights

Action under way to curb landlords who flout law

A CLAMPDOWN on the activities of rogue landlords who make flat tenants' lives a misery with huge service-charge bills and intimidating and aggressive behaviour starts tomorrow.

James Clappison, parliamentary under secretary at the Environment Department is set to introduce a number of amendments in the Housing Bill now going through committee, which are intended to tighten existing legislation and reinforce tenants' rights.

But Labour has already attacked the proposals for not going far enough. Nick Raynsford, the Shadow Housing Minister, will introduce new clauses, of which the most important, in his view, would give tenants the right to manage their own property.

Campaigners for leasehold reform are also demanding more far-reaching changes. Some support Labour's right to manage proposals, while others are calling for simplification of the complex qualifications needed by leaseholders wanting to exercise their right to buy their freehold.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, was forced to announce last-minute amendments to the Housing Bill in January, after media revelations of widespread flouting of tenants' rights by landlords. The revelations also highlighted the inadequacies of existing legislation, which imposes no sanctions on landlords who buy up freeholds without giving tenants their legal right of first refusal. Many of these landlords then start levying large service-charge bills.

Mr Gummer said in January: "The amounts demanded appear to be excessive in relation to the work required and the landlords can make a substantial profit by employing associated surveyors, contractors and managing agents, and earning commission." Leaseholders who challenge service charges can be met wih aggression and threatened with forfeiture of their leases, said Mr Gummer. Those who forfeit their leases face losing their homes.

If an amendment to be debated this week succeeds, landlords will not be able to threaten forfeiture of leases until a court has ruled that service charges are reasonable. Only then, if leaseholders still refuse to pay, can they be threatened with forfeiture. Landlords have been using this threat in reply to leaseholders who challenge service charges, giving them no opportunity to get an independent assessment.

Gummer: "excessive amounts"

Further amendments would allow service-charge disputes to be heard by the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal rather than the county court. Many leaseholders have been afraid to take legal action against landlords because they could face large costs. The LVT does not have the power to award costs and there are no lawyers. But the Campaign Against Residential Leasehold Abuse (Carla) fears this will not stop determined landlords from appealing to the Lands Tribunal, where they would still have full right of appeal. A new Labour clause would limit LVT appeals to points of law. This would prevent litigious landlords from forcing tenants through repeated court proceedings.

The Government plans to check some of the most blatant abuses by making it a criminal offence for landlords not to offer leaseholders the right of first refusal if they want to sell the freehold.

Many freeholds have been sold at auction for a few thousand pounds behind the backs of leaseholders. Local authorities will have the power to prosecute landlords if they flout the law. But critics point out that the power is discretionary and many cash-strapped local authorities will be reluctant to act.

The Government counters that its amendments would also give leaseholders more time to buy the freehold from a new landlord if they did discover that the freehold had been sold without their knowledge. But there will be no redress for those whose landlords have already ignored the law unless they are still within the time limits for buying the freehold from their new landlord.

The same will apply in cases where large landlords have claimed they can sell the freehold and leave it to the new landlord to offer the freehold to the leaseholders. The Court of Appeal ruled last month, in the case of Smith's Charity, that this was unlawful but its ruling comes too late for many.

The Government has rejected calls for leaseholders to be allowed the right to manage, arguing that this presents too many technical difficulties. Instead, in an extension of its original proposal, leaseholders will be able to ask the courts to appoint a manager if the existing one either makes or has a history of making unreasonable service charge demands.

GILT-EDGED

Will economy play its old trick again?

Is there any danger that the Government will repeat the policy errors of previous business cycles? The widening of the spread between bond yields in the UK and Germany since the last cut in base rates suggests that gilt-market participants are concerned.

Most ingredients of late-cycle overheating are in place: a government concerned about re-election: a Chancellor who believes that the economy's ability to grow in a non-inflationary way has increased: and the prospect of an unanticipated surge in demand (from various windfall gains benefiting households). Most probably, these ingredients will ensure some build-up of inflation pressures from later this year. However, the increased role of the Bank of England should ensure that the cyclical deterioration in inflation is less than on past occasions.

In addition to the political pressure to cut interest rates further, the Chancellor has a well articulated economic case for an easier monetary stance. He believes that the potential growth rate of the economy — the rate at which non-inflationary growth can be sustained — is well above the recent pace of actual GDP growth of 2 per cent. In addition, he believes that there is ample spare capacity, so the economy can enjoy a period of above-potential growth. (The similarity between these views and those of Nigel Lawson in the mid-1980s is striking.)

In our view, the Chancellor is overly optimistic about the economy's potential growth rate and the amount of slack. There is little evidence that the economy has greater capacity to grow in a non-inflationary way now than ten years ago. An increase in the potential growth rate has to come from faster growth in the capital stock or the labour force. Neither of these is happening at present. Sluggish growth in the capital stock is not only directly evident from investment data, but also apparent from the relationship between output growth and the change in capacity utilisation. If the economy's potential growth rate had increased, more output could be produced for any given change in capacity utilisation. In fact, the relationship between output and capacity utilisation has not changed in the past decade.

Turning to the labour force, there is even less reason to be optimistic about the economy's potential growth rate. During the 1980s, the labour force grew by an average of 0.8 per cent each year, because of the maturing 1960s baby boom and the strong increase in women seeking paid employment. In sharp contrast, in the past five years, the labour force has shrunk by an average of 0.2 per cent each year, as population growth has slowed and participation rates have fallen.

The economy's potential growth rate is thus no higher than in the 1980s. The Chancellor is also overly optimistic about the amount of spare capacity. It is hard to gauge slack, but there is no direct measure that suggests that there is much left. Survey measures of capacity utilisation rates for equipment are above the averages of the last business cycle, and measures of labour utilisation — the unemployment rate, the vacancy rate, overtime hours, short-time working, and survey measures of skilled labour shortages — are near the average of the last cycle.

The Chancellor's economic views dovetail nicely with the political imperative to boost growth ahead of an election. In addition, we have the prospect of a substantial addition to demand from windfall gains boosting households' incomes by about 5 per cent. In times past, this would have added up to an overheated economy and a rise in inflation. The question today is whether the new monetary regime will prevent this happening. Most likely, the damage will be limited, although probably not completely prevented.

The Governor of the Bank of England does not share the Chancellor's approach to monetary policy — ie, assessing the potential growth rate and the amount of spare capacity. Rather, he looks at the current pace of growth and "cost pressures" — commodity prices, the exchange rate, producer prices, and wages.

Although this approach may prove reactive, rather than proactive, in the face of a surge in demand, this may not matter too much. The Bundesbank's success in keeping inflation down does not rely on forecasting inflation two years ahead. Rather, it depends on a prompt response when inflation starts to rise.

DAVID MACKIE
JP Morgan

Work patterns are 'leading to more accidents'

By Marianne Curphey

MODERN technology and the ability to do business 24 hours a day have created a worldwide health and safety crisis which impairs employees' performance, a leading American physiologist has claimed.

Companies treat their machines better than the people who operate them and accidents caused by human error cost the US economy over $70 billion last year, according to Martin Moore-Ede, of Harvard Medical School.

He will tell insurers this week that requiring people to work all hours of the day and night at jobs that are less stimulating and more tiring has led to an increase in risks, liabilities and insurance costs.

At the 13th annual conference for the Association of Insurance and Risk managers, Dr Moore-Ede will say that disasters such as those at Chernobyl and Bhopal occurred during the night, "a period when human beings experience dramatic reductions in alertness". He said: "It is no coincidence that accidents such as the Clapham Junction railway collision occurred when people had been working extended hours.

"Unlike our sophisticated machinery and equipment, the human body was not designed to work around the clock, to shift sleep and work schedules rapidly or to work irregular or extended hours.

"Errors in judgment cause injuries, broken limbs and over 6,000 fatalities from work injuries in the US every year.

"Human error has risen to where it now represents the cause of 90 per cent of all property and casualty loss. The most highly sophisticated pieces of machinery in the plant are not the complex electronic man-made systems but the bodies and brains of the human operators."

He said an Alertness Assurance Process, developed in the US, could diagnose specific causes of fatigue and introduce appropriate remedies.

The conference in Nottingham includes keynote speakers General Sir Peter de la Billière, Robert Heller, the journalist, George Nixon, director of the Willis Corroon Group, and Dennis White, chief executive for the UK and Ireland of Zurich Insurance.

Too few firms have a training budget

UK businesses are failing to provide adequate staff training, even though nearly half manufacturing and 40 per cent of business services firms claim they are suffering from serious skills shortages (writes Patricia Tehan).

According to research published today by Lloyds Bank, compiled from responses from a panel of 350 small firms, only eight per cent of firms set aside money for staff training, preferring to train in response to a particular managerial or technical problem. The research shows 79 per cent of firms regard training as a priority but fail to act. It found 10 per cent of firms worry that it enables staff to get jobs elsewhere and a quarter prefer to buy in ready-trained staff.

Manufacturers were least likely to have a training budget, with only 3 per cent doing so, compared with 7 per cent of retail firms and 13 per cent business services firms.

Hans Snook, managing director of Orange, which has attracted huge interest from investors

Orange may pip 200p mark

By Eric Reguly

THE initial public offering of Orange, the mobile-phone network owned by Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong and British Aerospace, is likely to be sold at the top end of its indicated price range because it is already eight times oversubscribed.

Orange last month said the price per share would range from 175p to 205p, valuing the company between £2.2 billion and £2.45 billion. The price, to be set on Wednesday, is likely to be at least 200p.

Orange is to sell 325 million shares, reducing Hutchison's ownership from 68 per cent to 50 per cent, and BAe's from 32 per cent to 23 per cent. Orange has granted Goldman Sachs and Kleinwort Benson, the underwriters, the option of selling an extra 49 million shares, to satisfy demand. If fully exercised, this over-allotment would take Hutchison's ownership down to 50 per cent and BAe's to 22 per cent.

If the shares rise after they are priced, there is a good chance of Orange becoming a FT-SE 100 company. A market capitalisation of £2.5 billion is the index's threshold level.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

◆

Back with the old firm

AFTER his brief stint as a Tory spin doctor, Hugh Colver is back at British Aerospace as a consultant. Colver, who resigned as head of defence at BAe's press office when Locksley Ryan was appointed over him as chief wallah, has added to his CV in the meantime. He is said to have been behind Land Rover winning the army ambulance order over Steyr of Austria. He now leads BAe's campaign to replace the RAF's Nimrods.

IN SPITE of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into BT's Yellow Pages, the matter of whether it is a trade or generic name must merit more research. It lists where the document can be obtained, adding in brackets "see Yellow Pages". Or any other telephone directory?

Staked out

STAKEHOLDERS were banished from NatWest's annual report this year in an attempt to break away from jargon, and not to distance itself from Tony Blair and the Labour Party, the bank was at pains to explain. Last year it was ahead of its time with a fair sprinkling of references to stakeholders.

Sleep on it

IN the US, the land of the power breakfast, a survey of *Fortune 1000* presidents and vice-presidents has revealed that getting up late is good for you. Those in bed by 9pm and who rise at 6am lead less healthy lives, take more sick days, and see their families less than normal people. The rest of us are more relaxed, healthier and far wealthier.

Unlucky 13

HOW unfortunate for the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers that the brochure for their thirteenth annual conference was printed just before Peter Middleton abruptly resigned his £250,000 a year post as chief executive of Lloyd's last November, to be replaced by Ron Sandler. Mr Middleton is cited as Lloyd's after-dinner speaker. "We printed the brochures in October and just couldn't afford a reprint," explains Ina Barker, Airmic's executive director. "Happily Mr Sandler has agreed to give the speech instead."

A BUSINESS magazine is choking on its own editorial after commissioning research on "the reasons why owner managed businesses fail" and then printing the wrong telephone number. An office of the London Ambulance Service was jammed with calls from readers in search of a copy of the report, sponsored by business advisers BDO Stoy Hayward.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *31*

AXIOPISTY
(c) The quality that makes somrething credible. From the Greek for *worthy of belief*. "The trouble with Trevor is that he has absolutely no axiopisty, and the more he tries to sound authoritative the more incredible he becomes."

REMONTADO
(a) Someone who has fled to the mountains and renounced civilisation and society. Originally applied to wild men of Mexico and the Southern States. Today applicable to ski-instructors and chalet-girls.

ABNEGATE
(c) To deny oneself, from the Latin *abnegāre* to deny strongly. Easily confused with such words that sound almost the same as *abrogate* (repeal), *derogate* (detract), *abdicate* (renounce, and *arrogate* (claim). Despite appearances, *abrogate* is not the antonym of *arrogate*.

PUSILLANIMITY
(b) Faint-heartedness, from the Latin for having too little mind or confidence. Not quite a synonym for *cowardice*. A favourite word of Samuel Johnson. "The difficulty lies in drawing the line between Christian meekness and pusillanimity."

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With effect from 1 April 1996 the following rates will apply:

Mortgage Rate

	From	To
Loans of up to £49,999	7.49% pa	7.24% pa
Loans of £50,000 and above agreed after 8 July 1991	7.34% pa	7.09% pa

Mortgage and Home Improvement Loan agreements will be varied accordingly.

Equity Release Loan

If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:

	From	To
Loans of up to £49,999	7.49% pa	7.24% pa
Loans of £50,000 and above	7.34% pa	7.09% pa

If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:

All loan amounts	9.49% pa	9.24% pa

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Payment of Dividend

The 42nd Annual General Meeting of our shareholders passed the resolution to pay a dividend for the fiscal year 1994/95 of DM 10.00 per share of DM 50.00 par value.

Payment will be effected against presentation of coupon No. 8.

Payment on DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates will be effected at the rate of DM 2.00 against presentation of coupon No. 35.

Both payments are subject to deduction of 26.875 % of German Withholding Tax (including solidarity surtax). United Kingdom Income Tax will be deducted at the rate of 5 % unless claims are accompanied by an affidavit. German Withholding Tax exceeding 15 % is recoverable by United Kingdom residents. The Company's United Kingdom Paying Agents will, upon request, provide the appropriate form for such recovery.

Paying Agents in the United Kingdom are: SBC Warburg, N.M. Rothschild & Sons, National Westminster Bank PLC.

The net amount of dividend in respect of the DM 50.00 shares is payable at the rate of exchange on the day of presentation.

Claims concerning DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates should be lodged at National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments, Centralised Securities Office, Juno Court, 24 Prescot Street, London, E1 8BB, on special forms obtainable from that Office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in Space No. 35 provided on the back of the certificate. All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificates for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The net payment in respect of DM 10.00 Deposit Certificates will be made in sterling at the rate of exchange on or shortly after the due date.

Düsseldorf, March 1996 Board of Management

THYSSEN

THYSSEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Priority claims at BCCI to be fought

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

The liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit & Commerce International are in the High Court today to try to defeat an attempt by four groups of creditors who are demanding payment of claims, running into hundreds of millions of dollars, before other creditors.

If the four are successful their claims could delay payment of a first dividend in the liquidation of BCCI due in May or June.

BCCI collapsed in July 1991 with liabilities of $14 billion. The liquidators, from Deloitte & Touche, have reduced the liabilities to $10 billion and, after a settlement negotiated with the Abu Dhabi authorities last year, have been planning to make a payment of about 20p in the pound.

But a group of Islamic banks, headed by the Fisal Islamic Bank, are claiming priority before other creditors. Employees represented by the BCCI employees campaign committee are seeking priority over employee benefit funds BCCI purportedly set up.

The IML, the Luxembourg monetary authority, which is being sued by BCCI's Luxembourg liquidators, is making a priority claim as part of that action, arguing any claim it faces would be cut if the English and Luxembourg liquidators had sued the Abu Dhabi authorities.

The fourth claim is on behalf of the Panamanian Government, claiming money taken out of the Panama Treasury and washed through BCCI can be traced to funds recovered in the liquidation.

Stephen Akers, a partner in Deloitte & Touche, said: "We will fight these claims to the fullest extent because they represent queue jumpers. It is important that we succeed to maximise the available dividend to ordinary creditors." BCCI has an estimated 100,000 creditors worldwide, 35,000 in the UK.

The liquidators have made net recoveries of $3.3 billion since the collapse and Deloitte & Touche is planning to release about $2 billion including funds from the $1.8 billion Abu Dhabi compensation deal to creditors. The rest will be retained to fund litigation against third parties including the IML, the Bank of England and BCCI's auditors.

Inflation fall has yet to shrink pay award rates

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

LOWER inflation is yet to make any impact on pay settlements in Britain, a new study of wage deals suggests today. The findings of the independent study will cause concern about the continuing inflationary potential of pay. In spite of stable average earnings growth, economic monitors such as the Bank of England have made clear their worries about the impact on inflation of rising pay deals, and their implications for interest rates.

In an analysis of more than 200 pay deals this year Incomes Data Services, the independent pay study group, says lower inflation has not had any significant impact on pay deals. New Government figures last week showed a new fall in retail price inflation.

But in its latest pay report, IDS says in the run-up to the busy bargaining period of April, pay settlement levels are holding steady in a "going range" of 3-4 per cent, despite a fall in inflation to below 3 per cent.

IDS says: "What is clear is that the inflation rate of just over 3 per cent in the last months of 1995 has cast a long shadow into 1996, and that the levels of settlements reached in January have an influence on what happens in subsequent months. Many employers set budgets for pay in 1996 at the end of 1995, when a different inflationary climate was in place."

The pay report says that more than nine out of 10 of the pay deals recorded so far this year are giving above-inflation rises of 3 per cent or more. A majority of current increases are higher than they were a year ago, with a "significant proportion" of deals for more than 4 per cent.

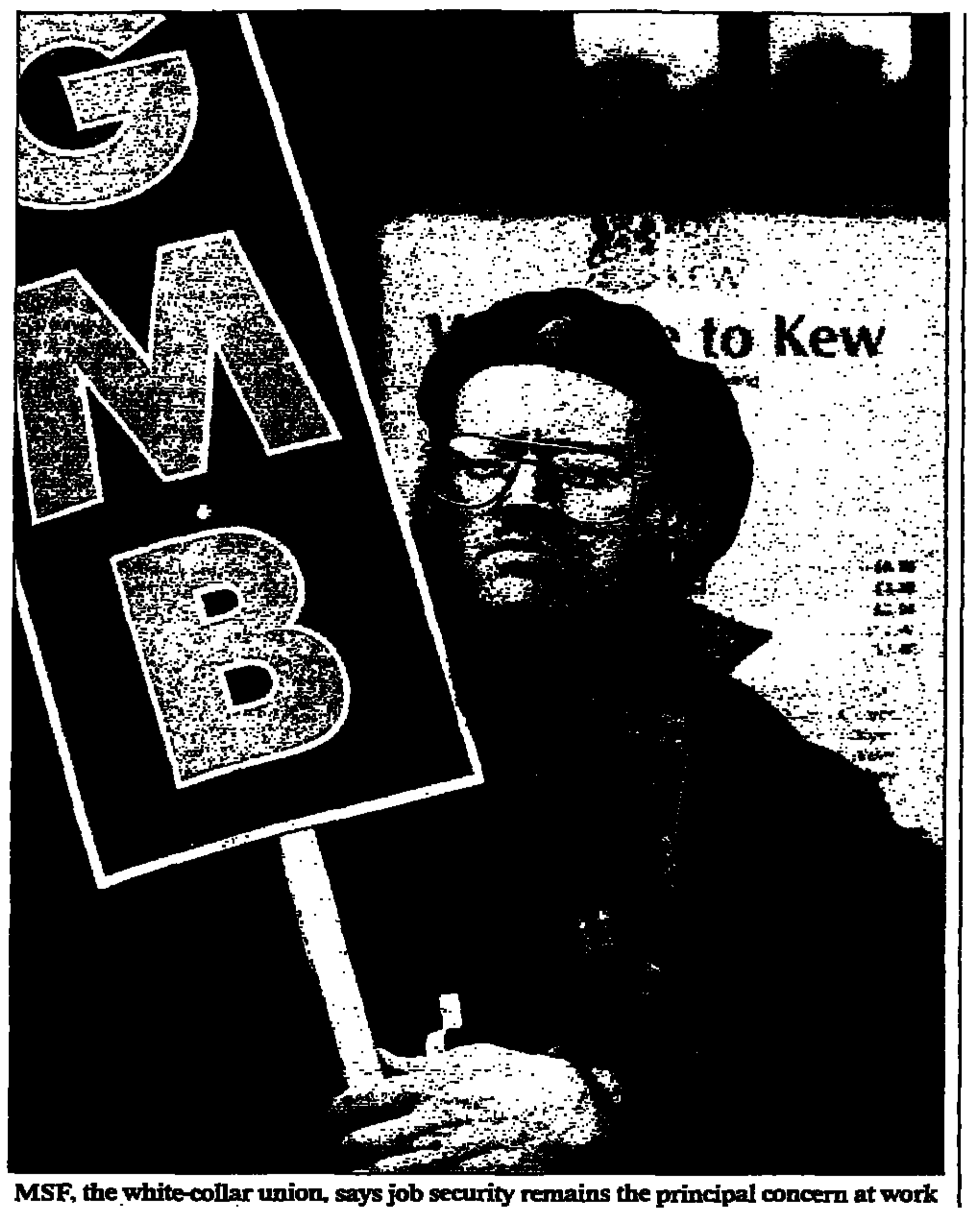
Equally, there are what IDS describes as "distinctly fewer" deals below 3 per cent compared with the first quarter of last year, though it says the Government's decision to stage the pay review awards for 1.5 million public sector employees suggests that ministers will try to maintain a 3 per cent ceiling for much of the public sector, at least this year.

Sectorally, the pay analysis says that the overall going range masks a spread of rises. While only one in 10 of deals struck in the retail sector, for instance, is for an increase of 4 per cent or more, in the financial services sector almost two-thirds of pay deals so far this year are for rises of 4 per cent or more.

Industries where pay rises have tended to be higher so far this year include finance, chemicals and engineering — particularly car manufacturing. Lower than average increases have been seen in transport, retailing and parts of the electronics sector.

In spite of Government claims that the economy is buoyant, MSF, the white-collar union, says job security remains the principal concern at work, with a third of employees questioned by the union in its quarterly employment survey saying jobs are now less secure than they were three months ago.

Roger Lyons, MSF general secretary, says: "The Tories simply can't understand, with interest rates and inflation low, why they are still so unpopular. The reason, as this new MSF survey shows, is there is a feel-bad climate."



MSF, the white-collar union, says job security remains the principal concern at work

Bosses worried over education of job applicants

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS believes educational standards in Britain's schools are now bordering on crisis, with as many as four-fifths of directors concerned over basic literacy and numeracy skills of job applicants.

The findings of a new study of Britain's bosses' views about educational performance come before the Government's publication on Wednesday of its inquiry into the education of 16-19 year-olds, headed by Sir Ron Dearing. The Dearing report is expected to prompt strong criticism of Britain's educational performance and standards, although Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, will argue in reply this week that the Government has to know the full extent of the UK's educational problems to address them properly.

Before the Dearing report, the Institute of Directors says today the findings of its study of company heads' views on the UK's educational performance have created "some alarm." It says a "staggering" 79 per cent of company directors are now concerned with basic reading, writing and arithmetical standards of people applying for jobs.

While UK competitiveness has been improved over the past 15 years, the institute says, "on education it seems to us there have been major failures of policy — yes, bordering on crisis — and we can only see these failures holding back our country and its prosperity." Seventy-six per cent of IoD members surveyed see education as the primary means of improving national effectiveness.

Ruth Lea, IoD policy head, says: "Basic literacy and numeracy skills should, in normal circumstances, be regarded as the minimum requirements for employability. But there seems to have been an uncanny silence on this whole subject, even though many international studies have shown up our relatively poor educational achievements."

The institute says that though official figures suggest pass rates are rising, its members see declining educational standards, suggesting "grade inflation". Fifty-four per cent of company directors are concerned about A level standards, and 70 per cent about GCSEs. Directors believe a good third of graduates, too, are unsuitable for employers' needs, and a third believe that there are now too many.

Insurer highlights 'inflated' claims

By Marianne Curphey

SOME claims by Welsh fishermen for hardship payments after the oil spill from the *Sea Empress* damaged their industry are "grossly inflated", the ship's insurer said yesterday.

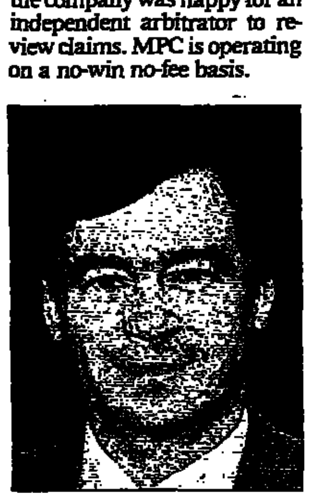
Skuld, the Norwegian marine insurer, said it had paid a total of £65,593 to seven claimants out of 11 claims submitted so far. The insurer has approved a further £20,000 which is yet to be paid.

Jonathan Hare, of Skuld's legal department, said that although the amounts approved for payment were "significantly lower" than the amounts claimed, they were not low in relation to the claimants' previous earnings.

In a letter to Gareth Wardell, MP, chairman of the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee, Mr Hare suggested that some fishermen were signing blank forms which were completed by MPC, a loss-adjusting firm, and submitted without their knowledge as to the contents.

Mr Hare cited the example of a whelk fisherman, who had produced details of catches for the previous six months showing an average gross income of £470 per week. The amount Skuld has approved for payments to cover a one-month period is £2,500, but the MPC claim for the same period was £18,000.

A spokesman for MPC said the company was happy for an independent arbitrator to review claims. MPC is operating on a no-win no-fee basis.



Wardell: letter from Skuld

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Trio join up as trading flourishes

THE Alternative Investment Market continues to flourish. The number of companies listed on the market for smaller and growing companies has expanded to 132 after nine months, capitalising it at £2.59 billion, with £186.7 million raised since June.

Dealings begin today in First Information Group (FIG), the independent multimedia production company specialising in CD-Roms for the consumer market. FIG is raising £6.6 million, capitalising it at £37 million. Dealings in Easynet Group, the Internet service provider, are finally due to start on Wednesday after a delay blamed on heavy oversubscription. Systems Integrated Research (SiR), the multimedia educational software group, also joins AIM this week. A placing by Durlacher, at 115p a share, is set to raise about £3 million of new money, capitalising SiR at about £15.4 million. Also AIM-bound this month is Dicom Group, a distributor of document image processing equipment that plans to raise up to £7 million, through a placing by Henderson Crosthwaite, capitalising it at £26 million.

Philip Pangalos

1995-1996 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
117	89	16.20	AMCO Corp	114	+ 3	4.9	12.5
58	16	2.09	Abacus Recruit	38	...	...	...
130	118	18.40	A de Gruchy	125	− 5	5.6	10.4
14¾	5½	13.40	African Gold	13	+ ½	...	...
14	11	5.01	Albemarle & Bd	13½	...	...	...
24	17	9.97	Alpha Omikron	19	...	...	...
436	380	37.80	Ann St Brewery	395	...	5.5	11.9
905	885	5.30	Ann St Cv Pf	895	...	8.9	...
156	73	68.20	Antonov	96	− 5	...	...
10	8	2.13	Arion Props	9	...	...	...
75	51	11.40	Ask Central	71	...	...	...
61	50	1.10	Athelney Trust	61	...	...	...
6½	5½	6.28	Ballynakay	6	...	...	...
31½	15	4.88	Baris Hldgs	19	...	...	...
48	43	3.85	Belcanto	43	...	...	...
155	140	1.01	Bowness Leis	147	...	3.8	...
75	70		Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	...
63	43	6.02	Brancote Hdgs	60	+ 3	...	...
345	190	40.70	Brockbank	345	+ 32	2.7	...
118	108	0.94	CCI Hldgs	118	...	...	...
110	108	0.13	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...
122	85	3.29	Cafe Inns	115	...	2.2	9.5
75	55	7.39	Caledonian Tst	65	...	...	7.9
2	2	1.55	Capital & Wstn	2	...	...	...
83	38	17.10	Card Clear	76	− 2	...	...
84	60	3.39	Cassidy Bros	62	...	6.0	8.8
45	41	1.79	Cavendish W F	41	...	...	20.8
19	17	4.99	Celebrated Group	17	− 1	...	...
9550	6550	24.80	Celtic	9550	+300	...	...
9550	6450		Celtic Pf Shs	9450	+200	...	...
130	109	16.00	Cl Comms(TV)	119	...	2.5	15.3
86	50	7.04	Chartwell Intl	66	− 4	...	...
110	95	0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	...
33	28	12.70	ClubPartners	30	...	...	...
510	500	12.20	Com de Prt Fin	510	...	...	...
44	30	8.98	Conister Tst	41	+ 2½	4.9	...
80	53	14.20	Country Gdns	77	+ 1	1.9	15.9
73	56	2.68	Cntry Gdns Pf	73	...	9.1	...
139	92	35.60	Creos Intl	99	...	...	...
63	52	15.90	Crown Products	60	+ 5	...	...
210	115	13.50	DBS Management	200	− 5	3.8	8.1
43	34		Dalkeith Inns	34	...	...	...
71	63	3.58	David Glass	66	...	5.5	9.4
1250	480	57.20	Dawson Hdgs	1250	+ 25	3.0	33.6
14	10	3.79	Dean Corp	13	...	...	76.0
90	63	11.80	Dmatek	63	...	...	...
200	90	106.70	Electrophoretics	165	+ 47	...	...
130	120	5.40	Euro Sales Fn	120	− 5	...	...
345	205		Farlake	345	...	...	...
260	38	5.77	Fml Publs	245	+ 10	...	...
212	37	20.30	Firecrest	122	− 8	...	53.1
230	178	5.38	Flomerics	210	+ 5	1.6	...
328	155	7.63	Floral St	328	+ 20	0.4	14.9
193	50	18.40	Formscan	175	+ 10	1.4	22.8
16½	14	53.20	Freepages	14½	− ½	...	...
106	88	5.30	Furlong Homes	106	+ 1	3.0	...
10	8	24.50	Gander Hdgs	8½	− ¾	...	...
22	15	5.70	Greenhills	19	...	...	...
165	145	32.40	Guiton	145	...	3.5	...
60	23	2.34	Hansom	23	− 5	...	...
130	100	59.00	Hiscox Ded Ins	130	+ 7	0.3	...
119	105	10.50	Indpl Radio	105	− 2	...	...
88	68	14.20	Inner Workings	85	...	...	...
543	488	21.50	Intl Greetings	513	...	1.2	...
143	108	31.30	IOC Intl	128	− 13	...	...
116	83	3.87	Jasmin	95	...	...	14.3
305	275	22.10	Jennings Bros	300	...	2.6	21.5
141	98	39.70	KS Biomedix	105	− 1	...	...
165	132	25.30	Lancashire En	140	...	3.6	11.1
243	195	14.80	Lawrence	243	...	0.8	...
3050	2750	53.70	Lawrie Group	2750	...	3.2	14.0
285	255	43.10	Le Riches Strs	260	...	7.4	25.5
95	85		Lifehome As Ten	95	...	...	...

1995-1996 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3¼	2	26.60	Lon Fiduciary	2¾	...	...	...
80	55	1.38	London Town	55	...	...	...
228	100	12.30	Lorien Grp	215	...	2.2	...
28	17	11.20	Manx & O'seas	19	− 1	2.1	25.7
130	125	15.10	Marine & Merc S	125	...	...	...
127	58	43.50	Megalomedia	101	...	...	...
109	36		Megalomedia Wts	91	...	...	...
93	63	5.89	Meltek	93	+ 5	...	41.6
595	125	91.80	Memory Corp	155	+ 25	...	...
23	21	6.33	Metrodome Films	22	...	...	...
220	83	15.30	Moorepay	202	+ 2	2.7	...
0¼	0¼	9.27	Mountcashel	0¼	...	...	...
73	52	20.80	MultiMedia	72	+ 1	...	...
340	280	25.10	NWF Grp	335	...	2.4	16.2
210	140		Nash (Wm)	200	− 10	4.1	...
345	200	8.73	Neill Clerk	345	...	2.2	16.7
208	145	5.49	Neilson Cobbold	200	− 5	2.4	10.0
73	61		Norcity II	73	...	...	...
73	58		Norhomes	73	...	...	...
78	68	7.79	Nthn Petlm	68	...	...	...
8	8	0.13	Nthn Petlm Wrts	8	...	...	...
71	63		Nthmb Res Prps	63	...	...	...
116	103	17.90	Nursing Home	116	...	1.3	33.4
110	54	13.50	Old English Pub	110	+ 4	1.1	...
96	70	5.55	Omnicare	90	+ 1	0.7	...
86	55	10.00	Omnimedia	56	...	...	...
73	66	16.90	Optical Care	73	+ 5	...	...
1¾	1	18.70	Pacific Media	1¾	...	...	...
55	43		Pacific Med Pf	55	+ 1	...	...
70	12¾	28.40	Pan Andean Res	69	+ 11	...	...
210	180	4.31	Park Ests(Liv)	180	...	...	...
445	345	95.10	Pet City	392	− 3	...	...
169	124	30.80	Polymasc Pharms	154	+ 7	...	...
420	400	3.80	Preston Nth E	420	+ 10	...	...
105	103	16.50	Primary Hlth Pr	103	...	...	...
105	100	1.07	Revelation Plc	100	...	...	...
18	15	10.60	Riceman Insce	16	...	...	...
4½	3	3.60	Rushmere Wynne	4	...	...	...
1¾	0¾	0.14	Rush Wyn Wrts	1½	...	...	...
133	48	4.94	SCS Satellite	48	− 2	...	...
31	18	2.16	Scotswood Inds	31	+ 3	4.0	29.3
58	36		Scott Pride	40	...	...	...
320	260	15.40	Scruttons	320	...	5.1	13.0
60	33	2.04	Self Sealing	35	− 1	...	...
3	2		Silkbarn	3	...	...	...
10¼	7	59.90	SkyePharma	9	...	...	...
9	6	0.97	SkyePhrma B Wts	8	...	...	...
580	490	136.50	Southern News	579	+ 2	3.5	15.2
66	43		Southern Vectis	58	+ 3	...	...
615	98	110.20	Stanford Rook	600	+120	...	...
185	70	17.20	Surrey Fr Inns	170	+ 2	1.5	20.0
1005	615	35.20	TRACKER Netwk	665	− 20	...	...
59	36	4.65	Tele Cred Eur	46	− 2	...	...
53	30		Tele Cred Wrts	36	+ 1	...	...
120	91	17.80	Toad	106	+ 5	...	...
180	155		Trinity Care	175	...	1.1	...
170	165		Trinity Care Pf	170	...	...	...
56	36	211.20	Trocadero	50	+ 1	...	...
115	40		Univent	40	...	...	...
575	210	7.17	Utd Auctions	403	− 30	1.2	...
805	585	13.50	VDC	805	+ 15½	3.0	14.2
14	7¾	35.70	Versailles Grp	13½	...	...	22.0
325	125	8.85	Viewinn	295	...	...	...
428	133		Voss	403	+143	...	...
14	8		Wedderburn Secs	9	− 1	...	...
5	3		Wedd Secs Wrnts	3	− 1	...	...
26	13	5.60	Western Selectn	16	...	...	63.6
6	5	0.31	Western Sel Wrt	5	...	...	...
33	15	2.63	Westmount Engy	28	...	...	...
93	50	6.20	W'chester M Md	56	− 2	...	...
160	140		Wynnstay Props	140	...	...	...
300	115	26.30	Zergo	285	+ 5	...	...

B&Q chief likely to go this week

By Sarah Cunningham

KINGFISHER, the retail conglomerate is set this week to axe Jim Hodkinson, the head of its struggling B&Q chain of do-it-yourself stores. He will be fifth director to leave Kingfisher in the past two years.

Mr Hodkinson is understood to have fallen out with Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, Kingfisher's chief executive, over the strategy of expanding B&Q by opening a string of giant warehouse stores. Sir Geoffrey, worried *about costs*, has put a brake on the expansion.

Although Sir Geoffrey has not made a final decision on Mr Hodkinson's future, he is expected to do so before Wednesday, when *B&Q, Britain's* largest DIY retailer, is *expected to show profits down from* £80 million to £55 million for the past financial year. Kingfisher as a whole is expected to report a growth in profit to about £280 million.

Kingfisher, which also owns *Woolworths, Comet, Darty* and Superdrug, infuriated its investors last year by paying £2.7 million compensation to four directors who left the company after a restructuring. Nigel Whittaker, the former *director of corporate affairs*, received almost £1 million, while former Alan Smith, chief executive, was paid £850,000 compensation.

Mr Hodkinson, who is paid about £300,000 a year, would *be expected to receive* a similarly large pay-off.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5348 (+0.0111)
German mark
2.2646 (+0.0153)
Exchange index
83.9 (+0.5)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2769.1 (+37.7)
FT-SE 100
3707.0 (+62.2)
New York Dow Jones
5636.64 (+51.67)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
20700.92 (+510.07)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	16.99	15.49
Belgium Fr	49.70	45.40
Canada $	2.198	2.038
Cyprus Cyp£ .	0.756	0.701
Denmark Kr ...	9.39	8.59
Finland Mkk ...	7.65	7.00
France Fr	8.21	7.56
Germany Dm .	2.43	2.22
Greece Dr	392.00	367.00
Hong Kong $	12.51	11.51
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1500	4.5000
Italy Lira	2514.00	2359.00
Japan Yen	178.50	162.50
Malta	0.594	0.539
Netherlds Gld	2.697	2.467
New Zealand $	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.47	9.67
Portugal Esc ..	*246.50*	228.00
S Africa Rd	6.55	5.75
Spain Pta	198.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	10.85	10.05
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Turkey Lira	111312.	103312.
USA $	1.632	1.502

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by *Barclays Bank*. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

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Department of Trade and Industry

Put customers first to get the beef back in les rosbifs

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Americans tell a cautionary marketing tale. In the early 1970s, Schlitz Brewing, then second to Budweiser in the US beer market, cut costs by using processed ingredients and halving its brewing cycle. Profits boomed in 1973 and management was lauded on Wall Street for being smarter than its rival. Why build in traditional quality if customers don't notice? But customers do eventually notice, however much advertisements lie. By the end of the decade, Schlitz was the number seven brand. Its shares fell 90 per cent before a smaller brewer stepped in to the rescue.

If Schlitz was a disaster, it is worse when a food synonymous with Britain is banned on the Continent, scorned by *les rosbifs* at home and rejected by McDonald's. British beef is not a single product, let alone a company brand like Schlitz, but the ruin facing this complex industry stems from the same mistake.

In the book *Brand Power*, Bradley Gale writes: "Brand power is essentially the power of customer-perceived quality." Using quality inputs and proper processes is as central to marketing as packaging and promotion. To progress, industry seeks to make things cheaper as well as better. But cutting costs at the expense of quality is a dangerous game.

In a meat market that came to be dominated by powerful buyers lording over small sellers, ever more pressure was exerted to keep costs down. Cattle products were treated as a commodity, whose quality seemed irrelevant for most uses. The Ministry of Agriculture was the ultimate guardian of the British beef brand, but, as so often, a Government that browbeats others to put customers first, put them last itself. The BSE story, and the "scares" that have punctuated it, is less a medical saga than a marketing one.

Having eschewed the well-tried slaughter policy of *dirigiste* days, ministers had to keep telling customers that they were wrong. This absurdity required a myopic mental cartel of the Treasury. BSE-hit farmers and suppliers, along with customers such as food retailers and fast-food groups who should have known better. How else could minority products such as ox-tongue just be written off?

If these interests had not concentrated on maintaining the status quo by hectoring customers, competitive market forces would have resolved matters by now. Good meat from certified BSE-free herds would have driven out the bad. Milk, beef and hamburgers would cost more. Dairy farming, which depends on the income from selling calves, would be in deep trouble, requiring bridging aid from taxpayers. But a smaller, more profitable beef industry would be returning to health and most of the £600 million export market would have been saved.

Not for nothing did Perrier respond to a loss of consumer confidence by having its entire stocks treated as industrial waste by a water company. Perrier was saved. British beef is a dead brand. Like Ratners, it has a negative value. The sooner it is buried the better.

That need not mean we abandon British cattle-farming, lose about 1 per cent of the national income, force sterling down and inflate prices. To rebuild, however, the industry must put customers first. An industry task force should be set up that includes marketing rather than medical experts. It needs to act fast if markets are not to be lost permanently to imports. Catering markets may already be a gonner.

Roasting beef and steak producers should never have been tarred with the BSE brush; most herds are free of it. They should find it easiest to adjust. The essential change, I fancy, will be to move from a commodity approach to direct supply relationships. This is bad news for cattle markets. But it is the only way to trace meat reliably and will help farmers to reverse decline in quality.

In place of "British beef", new trustworthy brands must fill the vacuum. Some will be big supermarkets and butchers, who already play with premium ranges. These will be matched by producer groups with common standards and policing, controlled breed groups such as Aberdeen Angus Producers (Scotland), organic herds policed by the Soil Association, assurance schemes such as the Scottish Quality Beef and Lamb Association, and co-operatives. Those who can guarantee that their herds have been fed naturally, closed to doubtful outside animals and have never had BSE, should market themselves as a new product. To cut completely adrift, they might give the word beef a rest in favour of steer, bullock or heifer, or a breed. Some certified meat aimed at continental markets could be diverted to a new home market.

To go much further, however, the Government needs to change its stance and help. As in business, change will only be credible if heads roll, regardless of blame. If politicians do not volunteer, the chief medical officer would be a good start. He has lost public confidence.

Certification of BSE-free herds needs to be tighter and better enforced to beat growing fraud. A new labelling scheme should, perhaps, separate meat raised in closed, organically farmed herds, mainstream dedicated beef herds and fattened dairy calves. In these cases, quality and lack of risk go together. Customers already demand different ranges of eggs.

This will be of little avail, however, unless the public is convinced that BSE will be eradicated quickly and that no high-risk meat is sold. Meat outside approved categories should be banned from human food, infected dairy herds quarantined and mass slaughter begun.

This will cost taxpayers a packet, so a tax-cutting Chancellor may regret cutting his contingency reserve to the bone. But politicians need to save dairy farmers even if beef is sliced in half. On the street, mothers are already muttering about milk.

Sarah Bagnall assesses the chances of names accepting a final settlement

Gamble Lloyd's must win

The question is whether the lure of finality will outweigh the gripes over the inadequacy of the £2.8bn offer

Lloyd's of London resembles a drowning man who knows the next time he is sucked beneath the waves he will not resurface. All is not lost, however, as near by rests a gleaming rescue boat, ready for action. But there is a problem. The captain is threatening to ignore the hapless man's cries for help unless he extracts certain concessions and promises.

Lloyd's has to decide whether to believe the captain and his crew of Lloyd's names. Will names throw Lloyd's a lifeline by accepting the market's £2.8 billion settlement offer, or will they reject it in preference for the choppy seas of life without Lloyd's as we know it?

The inner sanctum at Lloyd's is quietly confident that enough names will accept the offer to make it feasible, while names' representatives whisper that unless several difficulties are sorted out there is a chance that names may relegate it to the rubbish tip.

The fundamental problem is that eradicating many of the perceived problems costs money — a commodity that is far from abundant at Lloyd's.

Take the litigating names first. The realistic and sensible members of this batch of names, which is sizeable and powerful, believe the offer should be increased by about £600 million — an extra slug of funds that would be deployed to redress three aspects of the £2.8 billion offer they believe are misguided or plainly unfair.

The first element to cause disquiet is the £800 million of the £2.8 billion that is being offered to litigating names as an out-of-court settlement. Some names have been shocked to find that they are worse off under the latest offer than they were under the earlier, and rejected, £900 million offer of 1993.

This is particularly true for Gooda Walker and Feltrim names who between them were offered the lion's share of the previous £900 million offer, but this time are being offered only compensation for about 32 per cent of their losses.

The extra twist to the tale is that since the first offer, both these action groups have won significant damages from the courts, payable in tranches over a period of time as the relevant syndicates pay out claims. The first payments have already been made and are sitting in bank accounts waiting until Lloyd's fight for survival founders or succeeds.

The intriguing aspect is that the amount languishing in bank accounts is the same as, or exceeds, the amount on offer to the relevant names from the litigating fund. In the case of Feltrim Names Association it has an estimated £130 million in an escrow account and has been offered £130 million of the settlement fund. As a result, the action groups argue the pot needs to be bumped up by 25 per cent to about £1 billion to make the litigation payments worth accepting.

Allied with this wrinkle is the pending legal ruling on whether Lloyd's is able to change names' premium trust deeds so that it can receive any litigation awards direct, rather than the names. The change was made because Lloyd's wanted to avoid running the risk of names collecting their compensation and then using it to pay off other debts. Many names took out bank loans and guarantees against their homes to pay their early Lloyd's debts and may want to repay these liabilities before Lloyd's. If the courts rule that Lloyd's is not permitted to collect any damages awards directly, then the insurance market faces a potential cash crisis.

The demands don't stop there. The balance of the £2.8 billion offer is the £2 billion of debt credits that Lloyd's is distributing to names to reduce their liabilities to the insurance market. Names like the aim but dislike the method of calculating how the credits should be distributed.

Under the offer Lloyd's has opted to deduct a name's litigation receipt before determining whether he is entitled to any debt credits. For some names this deduction means they fail to qualify for debt credits or in most cases the name's debt credit is markedly reduced. Crudely put, names who have litigated are not benefiting from having done so — even if they have won their court actions.

If Lloyd's is wrong, the good ship Salvation will sail by

The solution proposed is that the debt credits should be allocated without deducting the litigation receipts. It is not clear how much this would cost, but estimates put it at about £200 million.

That accounts for £400 million of the extra £600 million that names are demanding. The remaining £200 million is the estimated cost of reducing the cap on a name's final liability. Currently names' bills are capped at £100,000 — a level that is deemed too high by many names' representatives. Arguments have raged for several months that the limit should be reduced to £50,000. The cost of this would be about £200 million — assuming demands for an extra £400 million of funds has been met. The market's ongoing names have very different demands, one of which involves yet more money. Those names that were still underwriting in 1993, 1994 and 1995 are being asked to help fund the settlement offer through a special levy. This special levy effectively obliterates much of the their profit for those years. Furthermore, for the members of the High Premium Group, underwriting more than £1 million, the levy is far from being small change. As a result, ongoing names argue that if name's are getting a cap on their liabilities then why can't they have a cap on their levy? Finding the extra £600 million-plus is the problem. The errors and ommissions underwriters, who insured the Lloyd's agents that have been found negligent in court, are refusing to budge from their contribution of £800 million. Their arguments against paying more are not without foundation, in contrast to the agents who are likewise digging in their heels in about paying more than £200 million.

But names have little sympathy as the payment will come out of agents' profit commissions for 1993, 1994 and 1995, which together exceed £600 million. Furthermore, as names are paying £450 million through the special levy, the agents are perceived as having got off lightly.

This is one issue that unites all names. They want the Lloyd's agents to double their contribution and if the agents baulk, names are planning to call an extraordinary meeting to try to scare them into lifting their offer. This may cajole agents into providing £200 million of the extra £600 million desired. The other sources of extra funds include the brokers and the accountancy firms, who did not volunteer any funds to the £2.8 billion package. An extra £100 million is being chipped in by the brokers and this figure is unlikely to rise as they are not involved in any litigation.

Then comes the accountancy firms, who are embroiled in legal actions as a result of their role as auditors to the syndicates. The firms are offering £100 million but the names want upwards of £200 million. If they don't lift their offer, then there is a very real chance that they will not remain part of the settlement offer, leaving names free to pursue them through the courts.

Auditors should take note that their potential liability could be massive as Equitas, the new reinsurance company being set up by Lloyd's to take over liabilities for risks written in 1992 and prior years, is deemed to be £1.9 billion short of funds. This shortfall representing the under reserving of syndicates. There is of course the need to prove liability, which Merrett has already successfully done.

The remaining £100 million could be in the form of an external loan, which will be repaid by the future market.

Lloyd's is running out of time. If it wants to send names their final bills in May, then negotiations have to be concluded next month because it takes so long for the complex process of calculating each name's finality bill to be completed.

The question Lloyd's has to address is which demand, if any, does it need to give into to secure names' help? Each of the various factions have the power to jeopardise the offer but identifying those that don't stand to lose from rejecting the offer is the key.

One critical element is that all the action groups are interlinked because litigants tend to be members of several action groups. As a result, the bulk are likely to act as a herd, with the direction dictated by Feltrim and Gooda Walker, the two bigget action groups. The membership of these action groups overlap and as a result probably total about 4,000.

All the members of an action group are bound by the wishes of a simple majority, so if 2,001 Gooda Walker and Feltrim names reject the offer, the likelihood is the whole settlement will founder.

The gamble for Lloyd's is whether the lure of finality — the chance for names to put the past behind them and not be faced with any more past bills — outweighs the gripes over the inadequacy of the £2.8 billion. Or does it need to find more? If Lloyd's gets it wrong, then the good ship Salvation will sail on, leaving Lloyd's to sink beneath the waves.

RADIO CHOICE

Top scorers for Oscars

Ken Russell's Movie Classics. *Classic FM, 7.00pm.*

Tonight is Oscars night in Hollywood. This gives Russell a golden opportunity to play extracts from the film scores nominated for an Academy Award. He puts them into the nostalgic context of Oscar-winning scores from the past. I have greater expectations for Patrick Doyle's music for *Sense and Sensibility* than he has. Its polka theme is sheer delight. I also fancy James Horne's threnodic, almost hymn-like music from *Apollo 13*. John Williams's score for *Nixon* is as hugely orchestrated as his work on *Star Wars*, a 1977 award winner. I was much taken by Luis Bacalov's use of accordion, harp and guitar in the short extract Russell plays from *Il Postino*.

Radio 2 National Big Band Competition All-Winners Concert. *Radio 2, 8.00pm.*

Already seven times winners in its class, Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra has chalked up its eighth success in the senior section of this year's big band competition. The trophy in the junior class has gone to Chetham's School of Music Big Band, from Manchester, which has been runners-up for the past two years. Both bands and the winning soloists can be heard in tonight's all-winners concert. It was recorded recently at the Golders Green Hippodrome in London. Did the winning bands' track record predispose the jury in their favour? Emphatically not. The recordings they heard could not in any way be identified.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, including **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat, and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, including at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** In Concert. Smashing Pumpkins **10.00** Mark Lamarr **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Alex Lester **6.00** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Brian Matthew **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Malcolm Laycock **8.00** Big Band Concert. See Choice **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **10.00** Radio Days **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Digby Fairweather **1.00** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **6.55**, **7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl **10.35** News from Europe; **11.30** News; Food News **12.00** Midday with Mar, incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck, and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Wembley Winners **8.00** The Monday Match. Southampton v Coventry **10.00** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** The Other Side of Midnight **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.00** World News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The Greenfield Collection **9.00** News in German **9.15** Anything Goes **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00** World News **12.05pm** World Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Dear Diary **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** John Peel **3.00** News in German **3.15** Concert Hall **4.00** World News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack: Hit List **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Omnibus **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** World News **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Ed Stewart **11.45** Development 96 **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Folk Routes **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** World Ranking **1.45** Health Matters **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Airport **3.00** News **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** John Peel **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons. **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Ken Russell's *Movie Classics*. See Choice **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyle **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Elgar (Symphony No 1 in A flat) **7.05** Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in D, Op 6 No 4) **8.05** Ravel (Trois Chansons)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Includes Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 1 in F, BWV 1046)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes **10.15** *Artist of the Week*: Kathryn Stott, piano, Liszt (Concert Study No 1, Il lamento); **11.10** Sibelius (Symphony No 2)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Edmund Rubbra

1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert. Marc-André Hamelin, piano, plays Mozart (Sonata in C); Schumann (Fantasy in C, Op 17)

2.00 Schools The Song Tree **2.15** Storybox **2.25** Let's Move **2.45** First Steps in Drama

3.00 The BBC Orchestras. The BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Grant Llewellyn performs Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A)

3.45 Sophie Yates. Includes works by Henry Purcell

4.30 Blue Angels, Blue Devils, with Brian Morton (3/6)

5.00 The Music Machine

5.15 In Tune. Bach (Fugue in G minor, BWV 578) **6.03** Ireland (A London Overture); Macdowell (Piano Concerto No 2 in D minor)

7.30 EBU International Concert Season. Live from Henry Wood Hall in Glasgow. Geoffrey Baskerville introduces, James Crabbe, accordian, John Wallace, trumpet, and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Elgar Howarth. Alasdair Nicholson (Breakdance); Lyell Cresswell (Dragspil) **8.20** Brian Morton looks at the emerging Scots school of new music **8.40** Edward McGuire (Calgacus); James MacMillan (Epiclesis)

9.30 Young Poets

9.40 Goyescas. The piano cycle by Granados

10.45 Mixing It, with Mark Russell

11.30-12.30am Ensemble. Mozart (Violin Sonata in A, K305); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in G, Op 30 No 3); Brahms (Scherzo in C minor, F A E Sonata); Sarsate (Carmen Fantasy) (r)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing **6.10** Farming **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **7.25**, **8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Tickle the Public **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week

10.00 News; Big Bang

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 Money Box Live

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Counterpoint, with Ned Sherrin **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping

2.00 News; The Inheritance, by Colin Johnson. The tale of a dying man who records his memoirs for his young son (r)

3.00 The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.

4.45 Short Story: The Cocktail Party, by David T K Wong

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 The News Quiz(r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: Here Be Dragons, by Stewart Love The touching story of Frank James, a teacher who loses his sense of purpose after he is made redundant. With Mark Mulholland and Tim Loane (r)

8.45 How Music Can Change the World. David Huckvale explores the music of the Native Americans

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Picnic at Hanging Rock, by Joan Lindsay (6/10) (r)

11.00 A Week in the Life. Seven days in the life of Veronica who is a model (r)

11.30 Uncle Dynamite, by P.G. Wodehouse Starring Richard Briers and Hugh Grant, with narration by Paul Eddington. The comic story of a young man's uncle, who is eccentric to say the least, who decides to visit London to "instruct" his much-loved nephew. With Jacqueline Tong, John Evitts and Felicity Montague (r)

12.00 News **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Metroland, by Julian Barnes (6/10)

12.46 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

Tonight at 7.00pm, children come out to play.

BBC The Keyboard Final, on BBC2. BBC Young Musicians '96 Events. Lloyds Bank

Second helpings are not quite as satisfying

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

The start of a second series can be a discouraging moment. Supplied with "the plot so far", viewers are sometimes surprised to learn that, though they watched **Hamish Macbeth** (BBC1) or *Band of Gold* in its complex entirety, the story can be reduced to a few yelled lines, artfully spliced. "I love you, Hamish!" exclaimed the unrequited Isabel last night, putting us fully in the picture, Isabel-wise. "Will you marry me, Hamish?" asked Alexandra. The last series left Hamish in a dilemma here, with a puzzled look on his wee pixie face, so the love triangle needed explication. But was this the whole story? Those of us still clutching damp hankies for Wee Jock were doubly hurt. Dog interest is down. Last night "Yap, yap" and a quick scamper of white woolly Westie was the total contribution from the canine angle. The disappointment was crushing.

Instead, love and religion were in the air at Lochdubh: the story centring on cross-denominational passions of a highly complex nature. A sober sect called The Church of the Stony Path (presumably not identified as Amish, because that would be too like "Hamish") wore Quaker outfits and solemnly tilled the ground. Meanwhile an ashram with finger-cymbals and exotic dancing was led by a colourful, fat, grey-locked millionaire called Zoot (Ron Donachie). Donachie, incidentally, had spent Saturday night bound to a chair in *The Governor*, so it was nice to see him free and flowing like this, after such an ordeal.

"Yap, yap", said the new Wee Jock occasionally. TV John (Ralph Riach) had a good joke at the expense of the gormless McCraes. But although it was still charming and watchable, somehow the magic of *Hamish Macbeth* had dimmed, and I blame the girl. Hamish used to be a heartbroken loner whom women loved in vain, like Clint Eastwood in a police woolly. When people addressed him, he squinted at the horizon, thinking thoughts, and grinding the muscles in his bony jaw, as though chewing nuts. But now Alex (Valerie Gogan) keeps flinging her arms round his neck like she's drowning, and it doesn't seem right. Alex is not much of a part, actually; she keeps her hair in tip-top condition and alternates between happy flinging and jealous moping. Let's hope she pushes off back to London sharpish, and makes more room for the dog.

But Lynda La Plante's revival of **The Governor** (ITV) was even less happy: in fact apart from the pleasure of seeing Gerard Murphy as a mad, hostage-taking inmate, Saturday night's set-up was quite dreadful, even inept. Janet McTeer, with a new haircut, had returned from America. She lectured (somewhere) to a group of prison officers on the procedures of hostage and siege, while at the same time at her old prison Barfield (somewhere else) a hostage was taken, and people kept saying "Where's the governor?" For about 15 minutes these scenes were intercut without any indication that McTeer was elsewhere: in fact it was easy to assume she was in the same building.

So Gerard Murphy went berserk and took a hostage — Donachie, a stalwart of the first series. Resourceful and bossy McTeer arrived, took charge, and guided old deputy Gary (Derek Martin) through successful negotiation procedure. No hitch presented itself, even for the sake of drama. Gerard Murphy was finally coaxed out and led quietly away, and Donachie released. Interestingly, Murphy had caused all this to-do by rigging up a noose, placing it around Donachie's neck and attaching it to the cell door. The fact that this door opened inwards was at no point allowed to interfere with our alarm.

Will McTeer get Barfield again? Well what do you think? Yawns and pillows all round. "Barfield could be up for grabs," Gary told McTeer at the end, but she said pooh-pooh to that, because bogus dramatic tension is better than none. "I doubt they'd even have me," she smiled, and roared through the gates in her black off-roader. *The Governor*, alas, was an insult to one's intelligence from beginning to end. "Just open the door," I kept saying wearily. "Why don't you just open the door?"

For a while, like most people, I was concerned that all new drama series centred on crime, punishment and gimmick policemen. In a spirit of sarcasm, I started work on a screenplay in which my police hero perpetually flossed his teeth in a manner to strike fear into lowlife. *Flosser of the Yard*, I wanted to call it. But things have now reached the point where objection is useless. They say that drowning is pleasant when you stop struggling: down, down you go into the dark blue watery depths, surrounded by ghostly pale-faced detectives and police helmets and Channel 4's *Blue Zone*, and little white dogs making muffled "yap, yap" noises with vertical bubbles.

Dalziel and Pascoe (BBC1, Saturday) returned for a second adventure, so of course I watched it. I'm a drowning woman, and there's not much else to do. It was still preposterous and old-fashioned, but this week the story was less sexist, thank God, and the dialogue shone better. Again the puzzle was good enough to keep you guessing, and Warren Clarke's gruff Dalziel was superb, but both weeks the stories have stubbornly remained books-on-screen, which is a problem. Dalziel is a three-dimensional figure against a flat crime-novel landscape, where people swap banal quotations and act like clichés. A student made an assignation for midnight. "You will hear the chimes at midnight," he added, for no good reason at all.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (29941)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (50212)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (6633903) **9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (2076699) **9.45 Kilroy** (s) (8883854)

10.30 Good Morning (s) (6580941)

11.50 Lifeline (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9756854)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (2927019)

12.05pm Turnabout (s) (5333361) **12.30 Going for a Song** (48380)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (60699)

1.30 Regional News and weather (98863011)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (94561477)

2.00 The Great British Country Music Awards (s) (8249125)

2.40 The Rockford Files (r) (1953854)

3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (6667729) **3.55 Bodger and Badger** (s) (5631699) **4.10 The Chipmunks** (r) (s) (8885421) **4.35 The Genie from Down Under** (Ceefax) (s) (2633748) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (3302800) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (1092748)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (333477)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (835)

6.30 Regional News magazines (187)

7.00 Eureka presented by Matthew Kelly. Henry Cooper tries out a set of collapsible golf clubs (Ceefax) (s) (2090)

7.30 Watchdog. Consumer magazine (Ceefax) (s) (699)

8.00 EastEnders. Grant takes a shine to the baby; Mark pays a visit to the solicitor and Pauline is torn by conflicting duties (Ceefax) (s) (8038)

8.30 CHOICE **Crime Beat.** Martyn Lewis reports on some amazing new gadgets which are helping to reduce car crime (Ceefax) (s) (7545)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), weather (1583)

9.30 Panorama. Gavin Hewitt investigates the apparent increase in recreational drugs among the professional middle classes (Ceefax) (635632)

10.10 FILM: Crash — The Mystery of Flight 1501 (1990) starring Cheryl Ladd, Jeffrey DeMunn and Doug Sheehan. After the crash of a commercial airliner, a woman fights to clear her pilot husband of blame for the accident. Directed by Philip Saville (Ceefax) (156106) **N.I.: 10.10** Country Times **10.40** FILM: Crash: The Mystery of Flight 1501 **12.15-2.00am** FILM: The George Raft Story **WALES: 10.10** A Parent's Guide **10.25** The Shoot **11.05** FILM: Crash: The Mystery of Flight 1501 **12.35am** FILM: Midnight Cowboy **2.25-2.55** Sense and Sensibility Behind the Scenes

11.45 FILM: Midnight Cowboy (1969) starring Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight. The classic tale of a naive Texan cowboy who dreams of finding glamour and adventure in New York, but instead finds sleaze and misery. Directed by John Schlesinger (Ceefax) (638545)

1.30am Sense and Sensibility: Behind the Scenes (r) (93510)

2.00 Weather (6079355)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Assessing Chances (9491380) **6.25** Reading the Landscape (7052729)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (1597835)

7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceefax) (48477) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (15564) **8.30 Songs of Praise** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3263800)

9.05 Daytime on Two: Christianity in Today's World (s) (6630816) **9.25** Movable Feasts (1572019) **9.40** Square One TV (5028816) **10.00** Playdays (s) (4328767) **10.25** Hotch Potch House (s) (9900516) **10.45** Look and Read (s) (5968570) **11.05** Zig Zag (s) (6818212) **11.25** Technology Starters (6610564) **11.40** English Time (s) (4290293) **12.00** History File (s) (18651) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (46922) **1.00** History File (s) (82009361) **1.20** Landmarks (82029125) **1.40** Storytime (s) (94569019) **2.00** Penny Crayon (r) (20317125) **2.10** East Anglian Gardens (44863212)

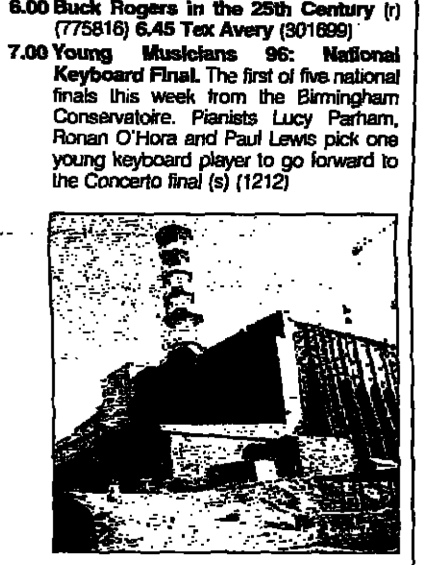
2.15 FILM: Aloha Summer (1988) with Chris Makepeace. A boy grows up while on holiday in Hawaii. Directed by Tommy Lee Wallace (Ceefax) (380699)

3.55 News (4894090) **4.00 Today's the Day** (s) (800) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (212) **5.00 Esther** (s) (9516)

5.30 The Village (564)

6.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (r) (775816) **6.45 Tex Avery** (301699)

7.00 Young Musicians 96: National Keyboard Final. The first of five national finals this week from the Birmingham Conservatoire. Pianists Lucy Parham, Ronan O'Hora and Paul Lewis pick one young keyboard player to go forward to the Concerto final (s) (1212)



Chernobyl's Reactor 4 (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Horizon: Chernobyl Sarcophagus** (Ceefax) (s) (7632)

9.00 The X Files. Mulder and Scully investigate the mysterious case of a military test pilot who disappeared after exhibiting psychotic behaviour (r) (Ceefax) (s) (117090)

9.45 This Life. Drama series about five college friends who wind up working in the same law firm and living together. Anna has hopes of rekindling her romance with Miles, but Miles has other ideas(Ceefax) (s) (122583)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (407106)

11.15 CHOICE **Acting With . . . Prunella Scales** (Ceefax) (s) (452629) **WALES: 11.15** Wales 2006 — the Agenda

12.00 Midnight Hour (s) (34794)

12.30am-1.30 The Learning Zone

2.00 The Oscars Live — the 68th Academy Awards. Barry Norman reports live from the star-studded 68th Academy Awards ceremony at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles (s) (7953355)

CHOICE

Horizon: Chernobyl Sarcophagus
BBC2, 8.00pm

An extended edition of *Horizon* marks two anniversaries. It is ten years since the Chernobyl accident and five since an *Horizon* crew became the first Western television unit to go inside the nuclear reactor. The result of that trip was a prize-winning documentary showing scientists working in levels of radiation that would be considered suicidal in the West. They were looking for missing nuclear fuel and trying to prevent a second explosion. *Chernobyl Sarcophagus* includes material from the earlier film and brings the story up to date. The reactor building remains dangerous and if the chances of another nuclear explosion have receded, those of a radioactive dust storm have not. A consortium of engineers from Western Europe has proposed a huge concrete cover to make the sarcophagus safe. Paying for it is a matter of argument.

Crime Beat: Fast Track
BBC1, 8.30pm

Martyn Lewis's series has set out to reassure us that the level of crime in Britain is not as bad as the headlines make out. But with vehicle theft the statistics are against him. A car is broken into every minute and one is stolen every two minutes. The better news is that technology is fighting back. Improved car park security and anti-theft devices should stop cars being taken and a new digital tracking system is being developed which should help the recovery of stolen vehicles. Among initiatives by the police, there is an unlikely success story from Durham and one owing nothing to technology. Under the Car Safe scheme, motorists buy stickers which indicate that they do not use their car at night. If the car is seen being driven, the chances are that it has been pinched.

Cutting Edge: Special Force
Channel 4, 9.00pm

If the Government has its way, one fifth of police officers by 1997 will be specials, part-timers who have the same powers and wear the same uniform but do the job for nothing. For the Derbyshire Constabulary, which has failed its Home Office inspection three years in a row and is short of money, the specials have been a godsend. Don Dovaston, the Assistant Chief Constable, admits that the force could not manage without them. The film follows the Derbyshire specials at work, showing how a cake shop owner, a court clerk and a law student turn themselves into spare-time cops. All say police work gives them a buzz. But their presence is not universally accepted. Professional officers are not enthusiastic about amateurs doing their job after minimal training and there is wider concern that the specials represent inferior policing on the cheap.

Acting With . . . Prunella Scales
BBC2, 11.15pm

Prunella Scales's opening shot to her class of young actors is that comedy is not a discipline to be taken lightly. As she proceeds to demonstrate, it is matter of great subtlety even if the end result seems effortless. Masterclasses make good television because they compel us to realise how much goes into a performance. A different inflection here or there can completely alter the meaning of a phrase or sentence. Scales's texts come from Wilde (*The Importance of Being Earnest*), Stoppard (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*) and Pinter (*The Birthday Party*). Her theme is getting laughs with words, though she does not express it so crudely. Before anything else she entreats her students to ask themselves of their role: who am I?

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1308800)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2044090) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) (4305816)

10.00 The Time . . . The Place (s) (8517729)

10.35 This Morning (98569903) **12.20pm Regional News** (2916903)

12.30 Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (7793670)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (7778361) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (4627552) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (30642545) **2.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (30654380) **2.50 Garden Calendar** (4257477) **3.20 News** (1693075) **3.25 Regional News** (Teletext) (2043516)

3.30 Rainbow Days (s) (5616380) **3.40 Tots TV** (r) (s) (2621835) **3.50 Budgie the Little Helicopter** (s) (5627496) **4.05 Scooby Doo** (s) (4561748) **4.15 Monster Mania** (Teletext) (291816) **4.45 Art Attack** (r) (Teletext) (s) (2544800)

5.10 The List (9512651)

5.40 Evening News (Teletext) and weather (779800)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (322922)

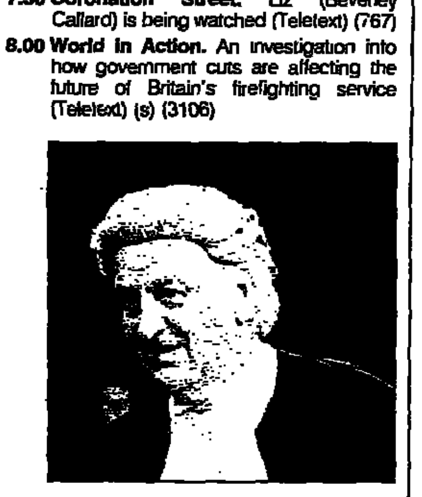
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (425583)

6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (398125)

7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers. Cash-prize game show presented by Phillip Schofield and Emma Forbes (s) (4458)

7.30 Coronation Street. Liz (Beverley Callard) is being watched (Teletext) (767)

8.00 World in Action. An investigation into how government cuts are affecting the future of Britain's firefighting service (Teletext) (s) (3106)



John Thaw as Kavanagh (8.30pm)

8.30 Kavanagh QC. James Kavanagh QC is asked to represent a man who was seriously injured in an accident, but who has no memory of it. With John Thaw, Ned Sherrin and T.P. McKenna (Teletext) (s) (97187)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (13106) **10.30 Regional News** (Teletext) (622038)

10.40 The Brits Uncut. An unedited version of this year's Brit Awards (8457632)

12.10am The Powers That Be (5588249)

12.40 Bushell on the Box (s) (1099713)

1.10 Football Extra (5703084)

1.55 Customs Classified (1515133)

2.40 Jones and Jury (s) (4107077)

3.05 FILM: On the Third Day Arrived the Crow (1973) starring Lincoln Tate and William Berger. Spaghetti western about three men searching for their father's killer. Directed by Gianni Crea (3505620)

4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (69065)

5.00 An Invitation to Remember Sir Anthony Quale (r) (44268)

5.30 Morning News (39249)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:

2.50pm-3.20 Cooking at the Academy (4257477)

5.10-5.40 Ready Money (9512651)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (597125)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 My Story (2924922)

12.55 Coronation Street (7778361)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (89052944)

1.55 Home and Away (42142187)

2.25 The West at Work (30645632)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (3104699)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9512651)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (58767)

12.10am Short Story Cinema (5588249)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Home and Away (7778361)

1.25 Chain Letters (89052944)

1.55 A Country Practice (94568380)

2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (7653274)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9512651)

6.25-7.00 Central News and weather (597125)

12.10am Beyond Reality (5588249)

12.40 Football Extra (3060510)

2.40 Film: Panhandle Calibre 38 (9832171)

4.10 Jobfinder (4742317)

5.20 Asian Eye (8778317)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Chain Letters (7778361)

1.25 Home and Away (89052944)

1.55 A Country Practice (42142187)

2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (4971632)

5.10 Home and Away (9512651)

5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - the Listings (823093)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (903)

6.30-7.00 Country Ways (583)

10.40 The Pier (439854)

11.05 The Listings (135187)

11.10 Meridian Focus (341869)

11.40 Beyond Reality (685767)

12.10am Short Story Cinema (5588249)

5.00 Freescreen (44268)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Foofur (6609748) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (43922) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (23583) **9.30 Ysgolion: Geography** (9983458) **9.45 Ffenestri** (9904941) **10.00 Sang Di Fang** (4855467) **10.15 Learn Sign Language** (4261670) **10.20 Place and People** (4820313) **10.40 The English Programme** (9838380) **11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica** (6946632) **11.15 The Mix** (412212) **11.45 Living Technology** (4293380) **12.00 Right to Reply** (10019) **12.30pm Camberwick Green** (31090) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (5972449) **1.35 Film: Ten Gentlemen from West Point** (77361816) **3.30 The Greatest** (361) **4.00 Jimmy's** (496) **4.30 Fruity Stories** (380) **5.00 5 Pump: Pwt a Parddu** (3408038) **5.10 5 Pump: Ffeil** (3497922) **5.20 5 Pump: Tochabanr** (9506564) **5.30 Countdown** (632) **6.00 Newyddion** (788564) **6.15 Heno** (206361) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (600632) **7.25 Taro Naw** (875835) **8.00 Jabas** (1748) **8.30 Newyddion** (3583) **9.00 Auf Wiedersehen Pet** (2564) **10.00 Sgorio** (1307854) **11.05 Roseanne** (956980) **11.35 NYPD Blue** (731835) **12.30am Seasiders** (77274)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Foofur Animation (r) (6609748)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (43922)

9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (23583)

9.30 Schools: Geography 7-11 (9983458) **9.45 Book Box** (9904941) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (4855467) **10.15 Learn Sign Language** (4261670) **10.20 Place and People** (4820313) **10.40 The English Programme** (9838380) **11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica** (6946632) **11.15 The Mix** (6616748) **11.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat** (4205125) **11.45 Living with Technology** (4293380)

12.00 Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (s) (10019)

12.30pm Sesame Street (22545) **1.30 Wowser** (42165038) **1.55 Bell on a Deer** (94575670)

2.15 FILM: The Eve of St Mark (1944, b/w) starring William Eythe. A Second World War drama about a farmer's boy who sees action in the Philippines. Directed by John M. Stahl (366019)

4.00 Jimmy's (r) (Teletext) (496) **4.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (380)

5.00 Keepers of the Kingdoms (r) (Teletext) (s) (4699)

6.00 The Cosby Show (r) (Teletext) (545)

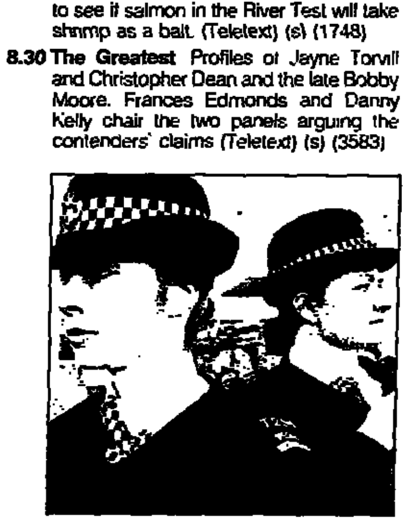
6.30 Hollyoaks (Teletext) (s) (125)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (615380)

7.55 The Slot(958941)

8.00 Go Fishing. John Wilson tempts tench from a Norfolk lake, uses freelining tactics to catch barbel and chub on the River Wensum and then travels to Hampshire to see if salmon in the River Test will take shrimp as a bait. (Teletext) (s) (1748)

8.30 The Greatest Profiles of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean and the late Bobby Moore. Frances Edmonds and Danny Kelly chair the two panels arguing the contenders' claims (Teletext) (s) (3583)



Hobby bobbies at work (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Cutting Edge: Special Force.** (Teletext) (s) (2564)

10.00 FILM: Raising Arizona (1987) with Nicolas Cage and Holly Hunter. A childless couple kidnap one of recently-born quins. Directed by Joel and Ethan Coen (368854)

11.45 The Sandman. An award-winning animation by Paul Berry in which sound enhances the chilling effect of the images (s) (482767)

12.00 The Late Late Show (s) (4641959)

1.05am Dottie. A drama starring Elizabeth Franz as Dottie, an agoraphobic living alone in New York, who has to confront her phobia when she is informed of her estranged sister's illness (r) (5109626)

2.35 FILM: The Unholy Garden (1931, b/w) with Ronald Colman. A gentleman thief finds romance and redemption when he hides out in a Saharan hotel specialising in catering for crooks on the run. Directed by George Fitzmaurice (7415423). Ends at **3.55**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (93729) **8.30** Press Your Luck (5806854) **8.50** Love Connection (4941941) **9.20** Court TV (6114903) **9.50** The Oprah Winfrey Show (1651212) **10.40** Jeopardy! (6918922) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (2753293) **12.00** Beechy (70903) **1.00pm** Hotel (89651) **2.00** Geraldo (67038) **3.00** Court TV (3125) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5641800) **4.15** Undun (1696293) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4477) **6.00** The Simpsons (1496) **6.30** Jeopardy! (2748) **7.00** LAPD (5106) **7.30** M*A*S*H (1632) **8.00** Central Park West (26106) **9.00** Police Rescue (29870) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (16729) **11.00** Melrose Place (83564) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (6785161) **12.45am** The Untouchables (4293084) **1.30** Daddy Dearest (78336) **2.00-7.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1954201)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
9.30am The Book Show (88922) **10.10** CBS 60 Minutes (6787125) Business (93941) **1.30pm** CBS News This Morning (98309) **2.30** Parliament Live (6309) **3.30** Parliament Live (3854) **5.00** Live at Five (2019) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (3090) **7.30** Sportsline (9274) **8.10** CBS 60 Minutes (610106) **11.30** CBS Evening News (53835) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (56442) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (76978) **2.10** CBS 60 Minutes (2530317) **3.30** Sky News (41268) **3.30** Parliament Replay (41268) **4.30** CBS Evening News (40065) **5.30** ABC World News Tonight

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Roaring Twenties (1939) (76011) **8.00 Meet the People (1944)** (41090) **10.00 Pet Shop (1994)** (95212) **12.00 The Pirate Movie (1982)** (64941) **2.00pm A Perfect Couple (1979)** (30309) **4.00 The Man with One Red Shoe (1985)** (9309) **6.00 Pet Shop (1994)** (75832) **7.30 Close-Up: Major League II** (3800) **8.00 The OJ Simpson Story (1995)** (15090) **10.00 Philadelphia (1993)** (20334360) **12.05am Deadly Invasion: The Killer Bee Nightmare (1994)** (5894362) **1.35 The Innocent (1994)** (4249715) **3.05 Wizards (1977)** (6251794) **4.25 The Man with One Red Shoe (1985)** (785978)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Waterloo Bridge (1940) (4651) **6.00 Silent Movie (1976)** (92187) **8.00 All of Me (1984)** (97632) **10.00 No Way Out (1987):** With Kevin Costner (69361) **12.00 Frankenstein Created Woman (1966)** (668065) **1.35am-4.15 Kagemusha (1980)** (61144065)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Aladdin and His Magic Lamp (1985) (76093) **8.00 Rin Tin Tin — Hero of the West (1954)** (49632) **10.00 Turned Out Nice Again (1941)** (93854) **12.00 To See Such Fun (1977)** (62583) **2.00pm Rascal Dazzle (1981)** (21651) **4.00 Rin Tin Tin — Hero of the West (1954)** (6421) **6.00 Broken Pledges (1994)** (18187) **8.00 Schindler's List (1993):** Oscar-winning drama (15245019) **11.15 One of Her Own (1994)** (954835) **12.55am Target of Suspicion (1994)** (116152) **2.40 Inserts (1975)** (450775) **4.35-6.00 Rascal Dazzle (1981)** (1906846)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (70096293) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (60058767) **7.00** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (53672496) **7.30** Ducktales (53651903) **8.00** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (91503835) **8.30** The Adventures in Wonderland (91502106) **9.00** Walt Disney Presents (70005941) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (60049019) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (91515670) **11.00** Muppet Babies (54725903) **11.30** Welcome to Pooh Corner (54726632) **12.00** Quack Attack (91506922) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (24382106) **1.00** The Adventures in Wonderland (53671767) **1.30** FILM: Return to Boggy Creek (49016800) **3.00** Eyewitness (20285651) **3.30** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (88761583) **4.00** Quack Attack (68740090) **4.30** Ducktales (88746274) **5.00** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (20297496) **5.30** Danger Bay (88760854) **6.00** Tarzan (88767767) **6.30** Dinosaurs (88758019) **7.00** Boy Meets World (20277632) **7.30** FILM: Sister Kenny (66222545) **9.30-10.00** Zorro (24395670)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Golf (72903) **9.30** Figure Skating (70458) **11.30** All Sports (20458) **12.00** Boxing (73125) **1.00pm** Tennis (85458) **3.00** Figure Skating (24274) **4.00** Live Tennis (7829903) **7.55** News (132941) **8.00** Speedworld (13031835) **9.50** Eurosport News (949380) **10.00** Football (63651) **11.00** Eurogolf Magazine (21748) **12.00-12.30am** Touring Car (95602)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Gillette World Sport Special (10632) **7.30** Racing News (39767) **8.00** World of Speed and Beauty (38564) **8.30** Powerboat World (37835) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (28187) **9.30** Ford Scorpio Golf USA (733800) **12.30pm** Football Special: Manchester Utd v Spurs (820380) **3.30** World of Speed and Beauty (5800) **4.00** Roller Hockey (41941) **5.00** Max Out (4941) **5.30** Rebel TV (7689) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (7212) **6.30** Tartan Extra (8564) **7.00** Ford Escort Monday Night Football: Southampton v Coventry (12902212) **10.15** PFA Awards (147816) **11.15** Sky Sports Centre (744458) **11.45** Bushido — the Ultimate Fight (175699) **12.45am** Tartan Extra (497292) **1.15** Ford Escort Monday Night Football: Southampton v Coventry (443881) **3.15** PFA Awards (344341) **4.15-4.45** Sky Sports Centre (308539)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Pots of Gold (2291835) **10.30** Classic Grand Nationals (7464106) **11.30-1.00am** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (8944831)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

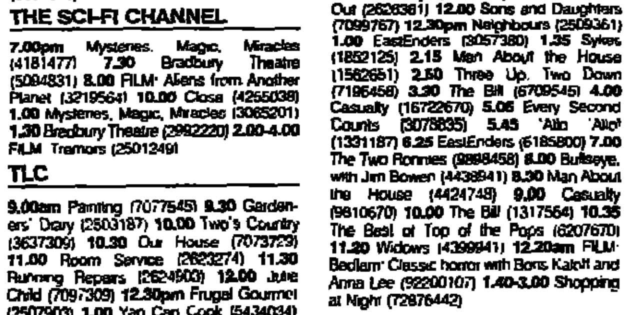
4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** General Entertainment **6.15** Ulf Ekman **6.45-7.00** Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5858748) **7.55** As the World Turns (6747380) **8.50** Peyton Place (6004729) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7166748) **10.10-11.00** Another World (6892941)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4187922) **11.30** Australia (4542106) **12.30pm** Bruce (9643922) **1.00** Getaway (1782903) **1.30** Great Escapes (9842293) **2.00** Trailside (4170361) **2.30** Dive the World (2044516) **3.00** Globetrotter (4199496) **3.30** Around the World (7920458) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (46772496)



Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, *Philadelphia* (Sky Movies, 10pm)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm D-Day (4178274) **5.00** The Red Empire (4180748) **6.00-7.00** Biography (9651941)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Mysteries, Magic, Miracles (4181477) **7.30** Bradbury Theatre (5094831) **8.00** FILM: Aliens from Another Planet (3219564) **10.00** Close (4255038) **1.00** Mysteries, Magic, Miracles (3065201) **1.30** Bradbury Theatre (2992220) **2.00-4.00** FILM: Tremors (25012491)

TLC

9.00am Painting (7077545) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (2503187) **10.00** Two's Country (3637309) **10.30** Our House (7073729) **11.00** Room Service (2623274) **11.30** Running Repairs (2624903) **12.00** Julie Child (7097309) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet (2507903) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (5434034) **1.30** Furniture (2508274) **2.00** Dunbar (4423019) **2.30** Stars and Gardens (6728670) **3.00** Two's Country (4435854) **3.30-4.00** The Old House (6707187)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (7402931) **7.30** Neighbours (4452516) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (7089380) **8.30** EastEnders (7088651) **9.00** The Bill (7079903) **9.30** The Sullivans (2505545) **10.00** Secret Army (2557980) **11.00** Bullseye (2625632) **11.30** Odd One Out (2626361) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7099767) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2509361) **1.00** EastEnders (3057380) **1.35** Sykes (1852125) **2.15** Man About the House (1562651) **2.50** Three Up, Two Down (7196458) **3.30** The Bill (6709545) **4.00** Casualty (16722670) **5.05** Every Second Counts (3078835) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (1331187) **6.25** EastEnders (6185800) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (9898458) **8.00** Bullseye, with Jim Bowen (4438941) **8.30** Man About the House (4424748) **9.00** Casualty (9810670) **10.00** The Bill (1317564) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (6207670) **11.20** Widows (4399941) **12.20am** FILM: Bedlam: Classic horror with Boris Karloff and Anna Lee (92200107) **1.40-3.00** Shopping at Night (72876442)

TCC

6.00am Amazing Live Sea Monkeys (76309) **6.30** Pugwall (87941) **7.00** Ready or Not (13800) **7.30** California Dreams (65485) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (86632) **8.30** Baby Follies (4878583) **8.45** Dinobabies (4857090) **9.05** Victor and Mena (5250941) **9.20** Rosie and Jim (5239458) **9.40** Bump the Elephant (4161903) **10.00** Tiny and Crew (5606854) **10.20** The Adventures of Spot (8874309) **10.30** Gran (8858583) **10.40** 10 + 2 (2862645) **11.00** Sesame Street (14583) **12.00** Barney and Friends (1854748) **12.35pm** Victor and Mena (39075670) **12.50** Rosie and Jim (3254922) **1.10** Bump the Elephant (37009922) **1.20** Teddy Trucks (37005106) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (78290854) **1.50** The Adventures of Spot (28173903) **2.00** Gran (16928212) **2.10** 10 + 2 (93261651) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (3851) **3.00** Oscar's Orchestra (3309) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (5496) **4.00** California Dreams (4903) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (4877)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (4316545) **6.15** Blue (589458) **6.45** Toucan Tea (8686564) **7.00** Batfink (1751535) **7.05** Grimmy (4625632) **7.45** Rugrats/Doug (7540309) **9.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (26729) **9.30** Playhouse (63748) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (26293) **11.00** Children's BBC on Nickelodeon (13729) **12.00** Magic School Bus (39293) **12.30pm** Grimmy (67564) **1.00** Global Guts (17545) **1.30** Visionaries (66835) **2.00** Dungeons and Dragons (42038) **3.00** The Littlest Pet Shop (7038) **3.30** Mighty Max (9670) **4.00** Santa Bugito (5477) **4.30** Rugrats and Doug (4361) **5.00** Sister Sister (2583) **5.30** Mirror Mirror (8941) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (5854) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (6106)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellors (6719822) **4.30** Charlie Bravo (6715106) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4447699) **5.30** Terra X (6708458) **6.00** Voyager (6736699) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (7912800) **7.30** Mysterious Universe (6716835) **8.00** Invention (4436583) **8.30** Wonders of Weather (4415090) **9.00** Deep Probe Expeditions (9818212) **10.00** Classic Wheels (9828699) **11.00-12.00** Deep Probe Expeditions (3907421)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: For Better, for Worse (3176922) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (2420800) **2.00** Return of the Saint (3625564) **3.00** Danger Man (2622545) **4.00** FILM: UFO Cafe (4433496) **6.00** The Adventures of Robin Hood (6723125) **6.30** The Time Tunnel (4063534) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6703361) **8.00** Return of the Saint (9892274) **9.00** Starsky and Hutch (9812038) **10.00-12.00** FILM: The Night Porter. Starring Dirk Bogarde and Charlotte Rampling (2621816)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Benson (9019) **7.30** Family Ties (5090) **8.00** Entertainment Tonight (8767) **8.30** Wings (7274) **9.00** Soap (45767) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (74800) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (76125) **11.00** Kids in the Hall (40212) **11.30** Saturday Night Live: The best American stand-up and comedy sketches (89038) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (69930) **1.00** Wings (72688) **1.30** Soap (12784) **2.00** Laverne and Shirley (54249) **2.30** Entertainment Tonight (66084) **3.00** The Vacant Lot (85152) **3.30-4.00** Kids in the Hall (57336)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (9202651) **7.00** Kilroy (1711309) **8.00** Esther (8192583) **8.30** Signs of the Times (8191854) **9.00** Spam on a Plate (9651090) **9.35** Kate and Allie (5622564) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (6255564) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8839293) **11.55** Brookside (7138570) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (7500854) **1.25** Crosswits (7909835) **2.00** Agony Hour (5219090) **3.00** Live at Three (4653835) **4.00** Infatuation UK (4953800) **4.30** Crosswits (1764467) **5.05** Lingo (93069090) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4046564) **6.00** Bewitched (4043477) **6.30** Brookside (6685767) **7.05** Food and Drink (9163019) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (4122309) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (1360545) **9.00** FILM: Tricks of the Trade (61902699) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (1398212) **11.00-12.00** The Erogenous Zone (7145449)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Teen Win, Lose or Draw (8854) **5.30** Night Hood (582816) **5.55** Batman (132187) **6.30** Catchphrase (5632) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (8090) **7.30** The Fall Guy (89816) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (3545) **9.00** Stay Lucky (19854) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (12941) **11.00** Sirens (15906) **12.00** The Fall Guy (59152) **1.00am** Batman (34442) **1.30** GP (58510) **2.00** The Black Stallion (92423) **2.30** African Skies (71930) **3.00** GP (21978) **3.30** The Black Stallion (95510) **4.00** African Skies (83775) **4.30-5.00** Teen Win, Lose or Draw (22607)

MTV

7.30am First Look (65403) **8.00** Morning Mix (738835) **11.00** US Top 20 Countdown (16941) **12.00** Greatest Hits (17583) **1.00pm** Music Non Stop (68816) **3.00** Video Juke Box (75822) **4.00** Hanging Out (9583) **6.00** Dial MTV (3038) **6.30** Road Rules (7090) **7.00** Hit List UK (15962) **9.00** Evening Mix (83941) **9.30** Amour (97748) **10.30** The Maxx (87854) **11.00** Yo! MTV Raps (12831) **1.00am** Night Videos (32875391) **5.00-7.00** Morning Mix (37930)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (1781274) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (3761318) **12.00** Heart and Soul (9631187) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (9640835) **2.00** Nashville '96 (8644651) **3.00** Into the Music (7273293) **6.00** Happy Hour (9660699) **7.00** VH-1 for You (3208458) **8.00** VH-1 Album Chart (3211922) **10.00** Beatclub '80s (2293293) **10.30** Planet Rock Profiles: Wet Wet Wet (2202941) **11.00** Tommy Vance is the Nightfly (2010670) **1.00am** Ten of the Best Justin Hayward (7369607) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am to 7pm on satellite, 24-hours on cable,** including **5.00pm** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (52468274) **7.30** Zee Presents (16707458) **9.00** Gujarati Serial: Narsaiyo (84050767) **9.30** Namaste India (33763800) **10.00** Urdu Serial: Chand Grehan (52474293) **11.00** Khana Khazana (56868477) **11.30** Hindi FILM: Aarop (95829699) **2.30pm** Buniyaad (70223038) **3.00** Flu (11334380) **3.30** Public Demand (10852800) **4.30** Junglee Toofan Tyre Puncture (70203274) **5.00** Zee Zone (11346125) **5.30** Akbar Birbal (70227854) **6.00** Usha Uthup Show (70224767) **6.30** Zee and U (70215019) **7.00** Parampara (81727583) **8.00** News (11342309) **8.30** Filmi Chakkar (11321816) **9.00** Hindi FILM: Phir Teri Kahani Yaad Ayee (18885767) **11.30-12.00** Scandal (73775354)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm Mrs Miniver (1942) (66509936) **9.15 MGM: When the Lion Roars** (61047421) **11.30 That's Entertainment (1974):** A celebration of MGM's musical past (62391835) **1.50am Little Caesar (1931)** (41502423) **3.15-5.00 Time Without Pity (1957)** (36473862)

GIVE US MORE 45
RISING PAY DEMANDS
TAKE NO NOTICE
OF INFLATION

BUSINESS

CUSTOMERS FIRST 46
GRAHAM SEARJEANT
GIVES CATTLE FARMERS
A MARKETING STEER

MONDAY MARCH 25 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Labour to drop compulsory training levy in favour of incentives

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S small businesses will be offered grant incentives to train their employees by a future Labour government under proposals to be unveiled this week.

Labour's new plans on training — which include scrapping the party's commitment to a compulsory training levy — will create individual learning accounts (ILAs) for at least a million employees, to which they, firms and the Government will contribute.

Labour's training plans, contained in a document called *Skills Revolution* which will go before the party's National Executive Committee on Wednesday before being published the next day, are causing controversy within the party because they formally abandon its long-standing policy of promoting industrial training by means of a levy on businesses.

The party's move comes as it mounts a new push today on job security, disclosing new figures that detail the largely insecure and low-paid jobs taken by those unemployed people who get back into work — challenging the Government's record on people moving back into jobs.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, will also make mention of Labour's new training policy, which has been drawn up largely by Stephen Byers, the party's training spokesman.

Labour has until now maintained its support for a levy even after the Government scrapped most of the levy-based industrial training boards. While Labour's policy document says that most of these boards were partial and that training in Britain performed less well under them than in countries such as Germany, it does include a commitment to keep the levy in the two industrial sectors of engineering and engineering construction which still both have training boards and maintain a levy system.

Labour's *Skills Revolution* will say that seven million people in Britain have no qualifications, while official figures show that a third of small businesses last year had hard-to-fill job vacancies. In trying to address such skills gaps, Labour will say the penalty-based levy system is no longer appropriate. It will instead propose two measures: the introduction of ILAs and the use of the Investors in People standard as a prerequisite for businesses that apply for government grants.

Every individual will be able to open a voluntary ILA, which will be granted tax relief at a level to be decided and to which employers will be able to contribute.

Labour believes that this move will prompt people to increase constantly their own skills; opponents say it will be taken up largely by well-off, secure and sophisticated employees. Some unions will oppose scrapping the levy, although Labour leaders have been trying to limit opposition using behind-the-scenes persuasion.

A future Labour government will contribute to ILAs from money currently used for some administration in the budgets of Training and Enterprise Councils to make what the document calls a significant contribution to individuals' ILAs.

Labour will offer an incentive to companies to train staff by linking availability of grants to the Investors in People standard, which will in turn be more formally linked to training. Companies which achieve IIP standards will be eligible for government grant aid.

Labour will consult widely on its proposals, with the aim of producing a final version in June to go before its party conference in the autumn.

Bosses worried, page 45

BAe leads race for $2bn Fokker orders

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH AEROSPACE is front-runner to win up to $2 billion of orders for regional jets after the collapse of Fokker, the Dutch planemaker.

With production of the Fokker 70- and 110-seat planes set to halt, once 15 on the assembly line are completed, airlines will be looking elsewhere for up to 40 remaining jets that were ordered from the Dutch manufacturer.

At the same time, Avro, BAe's subsidiary, will be bidding its RJ "whisper jet" to provide new fleets for British Airways; KLM, the Dutch national carrier, and Eurowings, its German partner airline. These airlines are all expected to announce orders by midsummer for up to 60 more regional jets to provide feeder services carrying passengers to and from "hub" airports to catch long-haul flights.

Efforts by the British manufacturer to push up prices and rebuild profit margins by restricting production could hold back sales. Avro has been building just 18 regional jets a year, half the number produced by Fokker, although it has ample capacity to increase output if prices make it worthwhile.

But according to Michael Phipps, managing director of PEL Aviation Services, an aircraft broker, plentiful supplies of slightly larger second-hand aircraft, such as the Boeing 737-500 and McDonnell Douglas MD80, will restrict the ability of Avro and AIR, its Anglo-French/Italian marketing and support operation, to corner the market.

Fleet expansion plans of several leading European carriers have been thrown into uncertainty by Fokker's collapse. Alitalia had ordered 14 Fokker 70 jets to underpin an ambitious expansion drive by its Avianova subsidiary. Only four have been delivered, and it expects to receive no more than eight.

Directors are to conduct a review. One option may be to surrender the leases and turn instead to Avro, which had offered a substantial work package to Alenia, the Italian state-controlled planemaker, as part of its rival bid for the contract.

British Midland had ordered four 64-seat F70 planes to complement the four F-100s and three F70s in its fleet. Now it expects to receive two F100s — but is determined to renegotiate the leases to take account of plummeting residual values.

Air UK, 45 per cent owned by KLM, has 11 Fokker 100 planes and 11 BAe 146 jets. If KLM chooses the Avro, as Lufthansa, Swissair and its associate Sabena have, then Air UK may consolidate on the British jet.

BA had also invited Fokker to bid, along with Avro, Boeing, Airbus and McDonnell Douglas, for a contract for up to 60 planes in the 80-, 100- and 120-seat types.

Leasing experts believe airlines that already have large numbers of Fokker 100 and Fokker 70 jets in their fleets may now seek to mop up available aircraft, while those who have invested less in fleet support may switch to other types.

American Airlines, the largest Fokker operator with 75 F100 jets and USAir, with 55 older F28s, are believed to have have been leading airline demands for the Dutch Government to ensure continuing maintenance and certification of the hundreds of Fokker aircraft in service.

Saab Aircraft, the Swedish turbo-prop builder, has confirmed talks with the administrators about taking over the maintenance and engineering operation, but may demand some state support for the costly process of maintaining approvals from the world's aviation authorities.

The Digital Video Disc made its UK debut yesterday at the Electrical Retailing Show. Toshiba was first to exhibit but will be joined in the market by others. John Bennigsen, managing director of Toshiba UK, is seen with one of the discs. Although it looks like an ordinary CD, it can store both feature films and soundtracks on the same disc.

RAF to buy new generation missiles in £2bn upgrade

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A NEW generation of "smart" missiles, capable of destroying targets from 185 miles away, is to be ordered for the RAF in a £2 billion upgrade before the next election.

A decision on two of the new systems, a tank-busting weapon and a long-range cruise missile, is likely by July. Final bids for an advanced air-to-air missile are due by June, with an order expected early next year. For the first time, an Israeli missile system, called Popeye, is being considered for a contract, worth £650 million.

The three new missile systems will dramatically improve RAF air crews' chances of surviving bombing missions because they will be able to launch the weapons from a safe "stand-off" range. The introduction of the new type of missiles is a direct result of the lessons learned from the Gulf War which highlighted the effectiveness of US cruise missiles.

The most fiercely contested bid will be for a conventionally armed stand-off missile (Casom), which will give the RAF the capability to hit a hardened target with a penetrating explosive warhead, launched from 185 miles.

The MoD is studying seven types of air-launched cruise missile, to match the Royal Navy's purchase of the US Tomahawk weapon.

British Aerospace, which has teamed up with Matra of France, has bid with a missile called Storm Shadow, based on Matra's existing Apache. GEC Marconi Dynamics is offering a weapon called Pegasus and two of the American systems are Hughes's Airhawk and McDonnell Douglas's Grand Slam.

Barclays to cut 1,000 jobs

BARCLAYS BANK is expected to launch a new voluntary redundancy scheme today with the aim of cutting up to 1,000 jobs at its branches (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The bank is looking for people to leave voluntarily to end a surplus of managerial and clerical jobs. A similar scheme for branch staff last year was oversubscribed.

The latest move will come just a week after Barclays told 500 staff in 13 regional offices that their jobs would be going. In that case it said it was looking at redeployment, voluntary redundancy and, possibly, some compulsory redundancies.

US victory for Lloyd's

By Christine Buckley and Sarah Bagnall

LLOYD'S OF LONDON has gained a breathing space in the United States to stave off the blockade of payment of a huge amount of funds to policyholders.

A standstill agreement in Louisiana marks the first victory by the insurance market against action by several US regulatory authorities seeking to stall payment from US names. They argue that Lloyd's fraudulently sold securities in its insurance syndicates. There are about 2,700 US names facing losses estimated at about $2 billion.

Lloyd's reached agreement with two regulatory authorities in Louisiana, where the market has big exposure to hurricane damage. With California, where the department of corporations has filed a lawsuit to freeze the $10 billion US trust fund from which Lloyd's pays claims, Louisiana is a crucial region for Lloyd's.

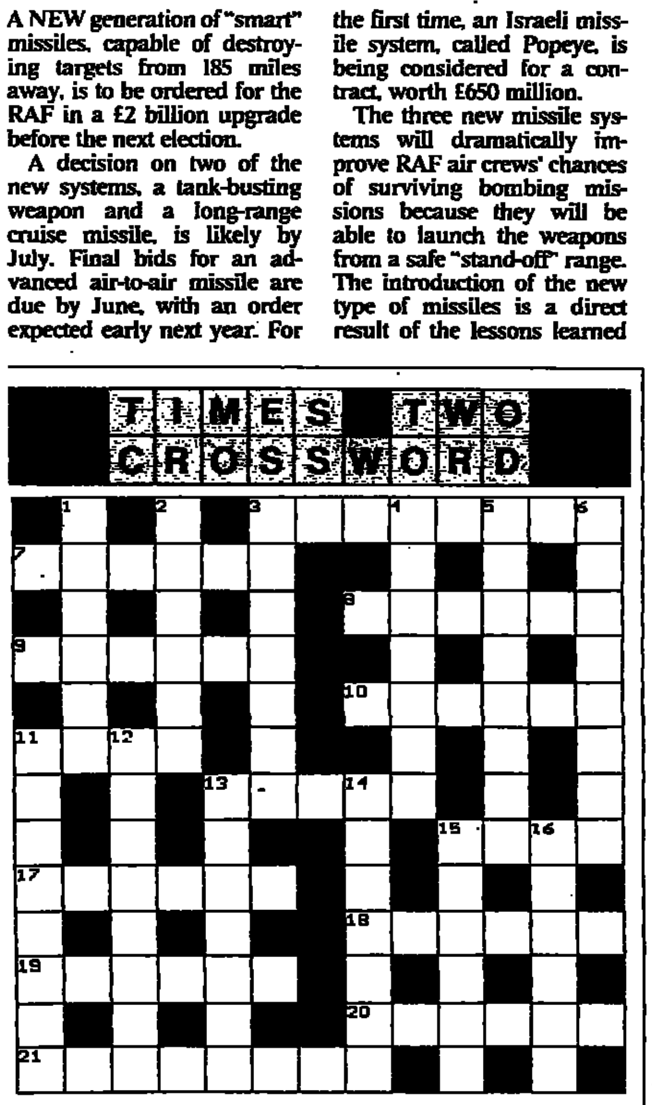
Jim Brown, Lloyd's insurance commissioner, said: "This is the first agreement of its kind in the US. We hope it forms a model to be used in other states to allow Lloyd's to continue paying claims to policyholders while issues with regulators are worked out."

Lloyd's has secured the agreement of the authorities in Louisiana until its reconstruction and renewal programme is agreed — or not — in the summer. Action against its operations could still be made after that date.

The Department of Trade and Industry is ready to appoint insolvency practitioners if the £2.8 billion settlement offer made to names is not accepted. The department, which is also charged with licensing Equitas, the reinsurance company being formed to take on the risks of policies written in 1992 and earlier, has a contingency scheme ready should the settlement not be approved and Lloyd's of London is adjudged insolvent.

'Must win' gamble, page 46

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 738

ACROSS
3 A midget: Fielding play (3.5)
7 Rush headlong (6)
8 Quirk (6)
9 Proposal: movement (6)
10 Sleep on premises (4,2)
11 Nimble, neat (4)
13 Fix (computer program) (5)
15 Shout (angrily, tearfully) (4)
17 Wholehearted (3-3)
18 Succeed in persuading: bring about (6)
19 Mode of pronunciation (6)
20 N. town; a cake; a Goon character (6)
21 Trained-up tree (8)

DOWN
1 In profusion (6)
2 Characterise, sketch (6)
3 Roll along heavily (7)
4 Book cover design: setting up machine (7)
5 Rain protector (8)
6 Every two years (8)
11 Walter —, *Listeners* poet (2.2.4)
12 Approx 13x17 in. sheet (8)
13 Active during daylight (7)
14 Against the current (7)
15 Upper half of dress (6)
16 Twigs woven into eg baskets (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 737
ACROSS: 1 Play back 5 Help 8 Kukri 9 Pillion 11 Low 12 Go to earth 13 Top dog 15 Yes-man 18 Bamboozle 19 Law 20 Snooker 21 Tibia 22 Lest 23 Estrange
DOWN: 1 Pikelet 2 Askew 3 Bring to book 4 Capote 6 Epigram 7 Pinch 10 Lie detector 14 Pompous 16 New Wave 17 Azores 18 Basil 19 Laban

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Mackay expected to go as Inchcape profits slump

By Philip Pangalos

INCHCAPE, the beleaguered motors-to-services group, is today expected to accompany a slump in full-year profits with news that Charles Mackay will step down as the company's chief executive.

His departure is thought to be part of a shake-up instigated by Sir Colin Marshall, the new non-executive chairman. Mr Mackay has served on Inchcape's board for ten years and became chief executive in 1991. He is on a two-year contract worth £380,000 per annum, and will be entitled to nearly £800,000 severance pay. It is understood that Philip Cushing, managing director, will today be confirmed as Mr Mackay's successor. Sir Colin is also expected to announce details of future strategy. This will probably include more details about the float of Bain Hogg, Inchcape's insurance broking arm. Analysts had been talking of a possible flotation within a couple of years, valued at an estimated £250-£300 million.

Mackay: two-year contract

Industry experts do not expect any more job cuts among Inchcape's 48,000 employees. The 2,000 job losses already announced led to a £64 million provision at the interim stage, although analysts are not ruling out further provisions. A spokesman for Inchcape refused to comment on any of the speculation surrounding the company.

A dividend cut is likely to accompany today's final profits.

Companies, page 43

Leamington strikes it rich

By Sarah Cunningham

ROYAL Leamington Spa is Britain's most profitable town, according to a survey out today. Grimsby, which came first last year, has plummeted to 63rd place.

In Leamington, all but 4 per cent of businesses made a profit. The town came out of nowhere to take the top place; it did not figure in the survey last year because it had fewer than 50 large firms, the minimum needed for inclusion.

Sadly for Grimsby, while last year 89.5 per cent of its top companies made a profit, this year the percentage was down to 80.9. Philip Mellor, a senior analyst with Dun & Bradstreet, who conducted the survey, said that Grimsby's reliance on the fishing industry, which is going through a difficult patch, had damaged its companies' profitability.

Leamington, by contrast, has moved away from its heavy reliance on the motor industry, the decline of which saw thousands of jobs disappear in the 1980s.

It now has a wide range of service and manufacturing companies. Improved communication links have also helped. There is no secret to its success, Mr Mellor said. "Leamington has a good blend of industry and commerce. It has the Midlands to its north and the M40 connecting it to the south."

Other towns to do well in the survey were Grays, Ilford, Kidderminster, Chester and Huddersfield. In all of them, more than nine out of ten companies made a profit.

The most profitable region was Northern Ireland, while Dyfed was the best county.

Leading article, page 21

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